Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 1 Chapter 1a

A Lost Heaven Project
#lost-heaven @ irc.mircx.com

Translated/Edited by
aechris

Raw Provider
Dark_Gatsu

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JUMP COMICS

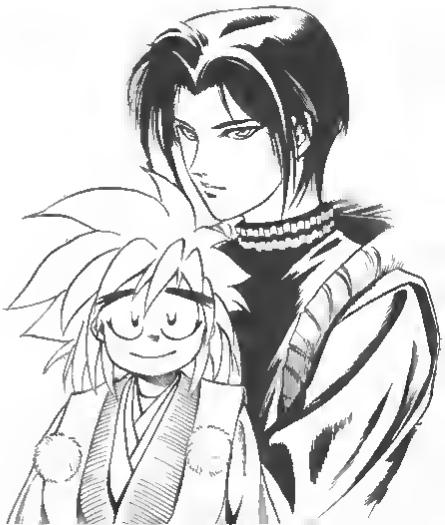
一巻

人形遣い橋　左近

人形草紙（からくりそうし）

あやかり左近

原作 写楽麿　漫画 小畑健



JUMP COMICS

Puppet Storybook

人形草紙 あやつり左近

Ayatsuri Sakon

人形遣い橘 左近

Puppetmaster Sakon

一

vol 1

Story

Sharaku Marou

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Puppet Storybook

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Volume 1 Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

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- REVENGE SPIRIT IN THE ABANDONED SCHOOL -

—廃校の復讐鬼—

*A TERUTERU MONK IS A PAPER DOLL TO WHICH JAPANESE CHILDREN PRAY FOR FINE WEATHER - ED

HOW MANY YEARS SINCE THAT TIME THE SAKURA FLEW OFF-SEASON?
廃校の復讐鬼
- REVENGE SPIRIT IN THE ABANDONED SCHOOL -

ONE'S DELICATE HEART CAN GO MAD LIKE A DANCING SNOWSTORM.
KNOCK ぱく
KNOCK ぱく
かぷっ
WAAA!
sigh
HEY, WHERE DID YOU BUY THAT TOY?
LOOK AT THAT COOL PUPPET TALK!
COME ON! WHAT'S THE TRICK?
IF YOU WERE MADE DURING THE MEIJI, THAT MEANS YOU'RE AN OLD MAN!
あはは。
AH HA HA HA!
what a jerk
YEAH, KEEP AWAY FROM ME, BRATS.
TA-DA!
DON'T YOU GET IT? YOU CAN'T BUY A TOY LIKE ME!!!
IDIOT! I'M FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MEIJI ERA, CRAFTED BY A SUPER-FAMOUS PUPPET MAKER! I'M KID PUPPET LIKON!

BY THE WAY, PAL...
おはは
THAT GIRL HAS BEEN WATCHING US FOR A WHILE NOW...
rustle

POP!
ひょっこり
IF YOU HAVE ANY WORRIES, YOU CAN DISCUSS THEM WITH ME!
HEY LADY! LADY!
EH? WHO'S THERE?
ESPECIALLY ON SUCH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AS YOURSELF!
WHAT LONELY EYES! NOT SINCE THE PUPPET SHOW HAVE I SEEN SUCH EMPTY EYES!
HUH?
rustle

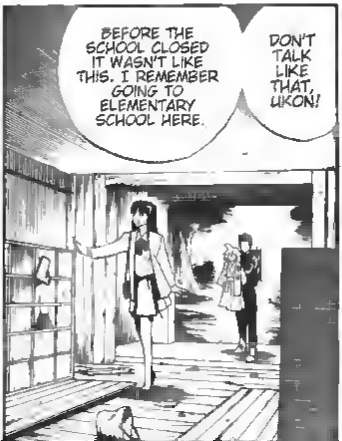
I HAVEN'T SEEN A PUPPET SHOW IN SUCH A LONG TIME, REALLY BRINGS ME BACK.
BUT IT'S TOO BAD YOU'RE JUST A YOUNG KID!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HIT ON BY A PUPPET!
YOUR VENTRILOQUISM SKILLS ARE VERY GOOD! CAN I ASK YOU YOUR NAME?
PAT PAT
MY IDIOT PARTNER HERE IS SAKON.
HE'S A POOR TALKER, SO HE CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT ME. YOU'LL HAVE TO EXCUSE ME FOR THIS BORING GUY.
MINE ?
MY NAME IS UKON! I'M FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF THE MEIJI, CRAFTED BY A SUPER-FAMOUS PUPPETMAKER!
EARLY MEIJI ?
THAT MEANS YOU'RE ALMOST 100 YEARS OLD! YOU'RE AN OLD-MAN PUPPET, HUH?
SHOCK!

HA HA, WHAT AN AMUSING PUPPET!
NICE TO MEET YA!!!
GRAB
I'M TACHIBANA SAKON.
HMPH!
I'M FUNASAKI HAZUKI. NICE TO MEET YOU.
WHERE DO YOU PLAN ON STAYING TONIGHT? THIS VILLAGE DOESN'T HAVE AN INN
SO YOU GUYS TRAVEL ALL OVER JAPAN, WALKING FROM FESTIVAL TO FESTIVAL, HUH?
WELL, IF THERE'S NO INN SUITABLE FOR US HOMELESS GAMBLERS, WE'LL HAVE TO EITHER DEAL WITH THE RAIN AND WIND OR FIND A SHRINE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I HAVE A SCHOOL REUNION TO GO TO TONIGHT. THE SCHOOL'S BEEN CLOSED FOR A WHILE, SO DON'T HESITATE TO STAY THERE
HERE, IT'S JUST OVER THIS BRIDGE.
REALLY, EVEN A SCHOOL'S STORAGE ROOM IS ENOUGH.

SORRY! THE ONLY THING THAT LINKS THE VILLAGE AND THE SCHOOL IS THIS BRIDGE...
HAZUKI! ISN'T THERE A DIFFERENT ROAD!?
PHEW!
THIS IS A PRETTY DESOLATE PLACE...
caw
caw
OHHH, SUCH MEMORIES!
COOOL! IT'S SO HIGH!
SAKON, WALK STEADILY! IF WE FALL TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RAVINE IT'S GONNA BE A DOUBLE SUICIDE, AND I REALLY DON'T WANT THAT!
ゴオオオオ
ROOOAARR
ガラ
rattle
ガラ
ratt
ドボォォォン
SPLASH

CAW
EHH? THIS RUN-DOWN PLACE!?

IF... IF YOU SAY SO HAZUKI, THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO.
WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PERSEVERE, RIGHT SAKON—?


BEFORE THE SCHOOL CLOSED IT WASN'T LIKE THIS. I REMEMBER GOING TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HERE.
DON'T TALK LIKE THAT, UKON!

YOU EXPECT US TO SPEND THE NIGHT HERE!?

IT WASN'T GENUINE PUPPETRY, JUST KIDS WANTING TO PLAY
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT SEEING A PUPPET SHOW
I CAN REMEMBER PUPPET CLUB
I CAN ALMOST REMEMBER BACK TO THAT TIME
SUCH NICE MEMORIES!
I WAS NO GOOD AT FINGER PUPPETS AND HE WAS ALWAYS SO NICE AND HELPED ME OUT.
THAT'S THE THING I REMEMBER THE MOST...
THERE WAS A BOY CALLED OSAMU IN THE CLUB. HE WAS REALLY GOOD AT USING PUPPETS
IS THAT GUY GONNA COME TOO?
HMPH
.....
!

EH? ONLY FIVE PEOPLE SHOWED UP!?
6-1
KEH! THAT'S THE SAME THING I ASKED!
KITAMURA KOUJI (SALESMAN)
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?
FUNASAKI HAZUKI (COLLEGE STUDENT)
SAEKI TSUTOMU (ART COLLEGE STUDENT)
WELL, IT'S ALL ON THE INVITATION.
Class Reunion Notice
Very soon our dear Wakakusa Elementary School is going to be torn down
Let's meet one last time at our old alma mater to talk about the good old times
Time March 30, 5:00 PM
Place Old Building, Room 6-1
The Class
ARE YOU SURE TODAY'S THE RIGHT DAY?
OKA YOUKO (OFFICE LADY)
SAITOU KENICHI (CRAM SCHOOL STUDENT)
WEIRD
FOR SURE THERE'S NO ONE IN ANY OF THE OTHER CLASSROOMS.
RATTLE

WE'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD GIVE US AN EMPTY CLASSROOM FOR THE NIGHT.
OH, HE CAME FOR THE FESTIVAL AND HAS NOWHERE TO STAY SO I INVITED HIM.
WHA? WHAT'S HE DOING HERE?
WHAT'S WITH HIM...?
HEY SINCE WE GOT TIME TO KILL, LET'S SEE YOUR SKILLS, BIG SHOT STREET PERFORMER. HEH HEH HEH
NICE TO MEET YOU...
HMPH. IT'S VULGAR THINGS LIKE THAT THAT KEEP YOU FROM GETTING ACCEPTED TO A UNIVERSITY.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? ABOUT EVERYONE'S ABSENCE?
AH, WE KNOW WHY YOU WERE INVITED, YOU'VE BECOME SO DAMN HOT!
I DON'T WANT TO CAUSE A FUSS, MY MISTAKE
OR ELSE, I WONDER IF WE'RE THE ONLY ONES WHO GOT INVITATIONS

UM.. I...
TOO BAD WE CAN'T SAY THE SAME ABOUT YOUKO.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE BECOME A NICE WOMAN, HAVEN'T YOU?
BY THE WAY, NONE OF US HAVE SEEN TAKAHASHI SINCE YOUR EXCHANGE.
JUST DON'T GET TOO FAMILIAR WITH CALLING ME THAT NAME. I'M NOT YOUR SAME GIRL ANYMORE.
BECAUSE OF MY PARENTS' DIVORCE EITHER IS FINE
DIDN'T YOU KNOW? AFTER HAZUKI CHANGED SCHOOLS SHE CHANGED HER NAME. IT'S NOT TAKAHASHI ANYMORE
IDIOT
WH, WHAT? THAT PUPPET SUDDENLY...!!
PUPPET...
THAT HURTS! ARE YOU TRYIN' TO KILL ME!?
mmph!
HEY!
NOW THAT I TAKE A BETTER LOOK, YOU'RE NOT BAD! YOUR FACE IS JUST LIKE A PUPPET'S, HUH?

SPEAKING OF PUPPETS..
WHAT'S THE COMMON FEATURE BETWEEN THE FIVE OF US..
!!
びっくっ
HUH?
eeeeeak ガラ
THE MAIN THING IS, WHO ARRANGED THIS? WHO..!!
HMPH!
?
silence
CUT IT OUT! WE ALL PROMISED WE WOULDN'T TALK ABOUT THAT AGAIN!

DON'T TELL ME YOU GUYS WERE INVITED TO A STRANGE CLASS REUNION!?
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
HEY, WHO ARE YOU?
JUST NOW THIS WAS RECEIVED BY THE POLICE STATION.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN!?
EH?
STRANGE CLASS REUNION!?
Let's
all
HAVE
a
talk
about
DEATH
Death
Class
Reunion
Coordinator
Kusunoki
Osamu
DOOOOOOON

!!!
O...
OSAMU-KUN!?
Osamu
DO YOU KNOW THE COORDINATOR, KUSUNORI OSAMU?
YEAH
HE DIED EIGHT YEARS AGO. HE WAS OUR CLASSMATE
silent
UH... UM.

HOW DID A DEAD GUY SEND OUT INVITATIONS?
SHH
HE'S DEAD !?
HMMM WELL THEN YOU GUYS
WHAT DO YOU THINK THE POLICE ARE FOR!?
YOU TROUBLED ME WITH YOUR LITTLE PRANK!?
BAM!
OKAY, OKAY IF THAT'S THE CASE I'LL GO TAKE A LOOK AROUND THE SCHOOL TO SEE IF I CAN FIND ANYONE HIDING SOMEWHERE
YEAH WE KNOW OSAMU, BUT WE DIDN'T PULL A PRANK
WE REALLY DON'T KNOW WHO CALLED US HERE!
WE WOULDN'T DO THIS KIND OF THING!
Y YOU'RE WRONG!

HUH? WHAT'S THAT?
KOUJI, LET'S GO!
DO YOU GUYS HAVE ANY OTHER INFORMATION YOU WANT TO GIVE ME?
HEY, SAKON LET'S NOT GET INVOLVED WITH THIS
IDIOT, YOU CAN GO WITH YOUR GOOD POLICEMAN BUDDY
WE'LL SPLIT UP AND LOOK AROUND TOO WE HAVE TO STOP WHOEVER'S BEHIND THIS AWFUL JOKE!!
HMPH
PEH!
WH...
HUH?
JERKS, WHAT AN INCONVENIENCE, STUPID COP
I'M GOING HOME.

A...
WH, WHAT THE HELL...
BRRRR
WHAT KIND OF SICK JOKE IS THIS!?
SMACK
BESIDES US IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE THERE'S ANYONE HERE
HEY, HOW'S IT GOING?
A HEADLESS PUPPET!?

MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET...
M...
!?
BRRRM
!?
glint
IF THEY DIE IT'S NOT MY FAULT...
NOT MY FAULT..
BRRRRRRM

FWIP

BRRRRM
オオオ
ガラ
clatter
ゴゴゴ
ガラガラ
rattle
ROLL

THE DEATH WAS SO SUDDEN WE ALL FELT OVERCOME WITH SURPRISE.. THIS WAS THE PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT IN A SERIES OF MURDERS TO COME. THIS WAS JUST THE MURDERER'S PROLOGUE...
ON TOP OF THAT, THE BRIDGE HAD COLLAPSED. WE WERE IN COMPLETE ISOLATION FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!!!
HIS HEAD ROLLS AROUND AND THE SKY IS REFLECTED IN HIS EYES. MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET.
MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET...

ROOOAR
...THIS IS TERRIBLE!
TH-

TH... THERE'S DEFINITELY SOMEONE IN THE SCHOOL!
IT CAN'T BE! SO THAT GUY... KOUJI...
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE CUT THE STEEL ROPE AND TOOK OFF-
ON TOP OF THAT SAKON HERE-
THERE'S A LINE OF PIANO WIRE HERE

THE ANNOUNCEMENT EARLIER MUST HAVE COME FROM THE P.A. ROOM!!
THAT'S IT!
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD, SAKON?
PAT PAT
QUICK! LET'S GET BACK THERE!
HMPH. YOU ALWAYS GET ME INTO TROUBLE, YOU KNOW THAT?
KEEP QUIET WAIT AND SEE, UKON
!!
BAM!
P.A. ROOM
WAIT UP!
TRIP
!
OW!

* P.A. ROOM

MISCHIEVOUS MICE ARE NEGLECTED, BUT LAUGH WHEN THE NECK FOLDS AND BENDS. MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET.
NO NO ONE'S HERE
A TAPE! IT MUST HAVE BEEN SET HERE IN ADVANCE
I HAVE A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS
MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET.
IT'S YOUR JOB TO ARREST MURDERERS!
DO SOMETHING, OFFICER! PEOPLE ARE DYING!
P, POWER FAILURE?
OR WAS IT THE CRIMINAL!?
click

HEY, WHERE'S YOUKO?
PANT
PANT
LET'S SPLIT UP AND SEARCH THE FIRST AND SECOND FLOORS
O... OKAY. THE CRIMINAL IS POSSIBLY STILL IN THE SCHOOL
I... I KNOW, JUST STAY CALM.
IN-IN ANY CASE, LET'S LOOK AROUND. IF YOU FIND ANYTHING, YELL OUT AS LOUD AS YOU CAN!
WHAT!?
YO... YOUKO'S NOT HERE!
WAAAAAA!!!
HUH?
YOUKO!
YOUKO!
WHERE DID SHE GO AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
PAT PAT
WOOOOO

YO...
YOUKO
!!!!

MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET. MISCHIEVOUS MICE ARE NEGLECTED, BUT LAUGH WHEN THE NECK FOLDS AND BENDS. MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET.
THIS TIME IT'S YOUKO...
TH...
rustle
BOTH DEATHS HAPPENED ACCORDING TO THAT OMINOUS SONG.
IYAAAA!!
AN OSAMU-MADE PUPPET...
AND THAT PUPPET IS DEFINITELY

YOUKO'S BEEN MURDERED. I'VE GOTTA CATCH THE CRIMINAL, NO MATTER WHAT
I CAN'T FORGIVE WHAT'S HAPPENED!
SHUT UP!
WE NEED TO CONTACT THE VILLAGE BUT THE BRIDGE IS BROKEN! THERE'S NOWHERE FOR US TO ESCAPE!
JINGLE
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME TO THIS STUPID REUNION!!
HOW DID IT GET HERE?
THE KEY TO THE ART ROOM ...?
* ART ROOM
JINGLE

NO, IT'S NOTHING
WHAT?
HM.
SCHOOL AFFAIRS ROOM
KNOCK
WAS IT THE CRIMINAL!?
THE PHONE LINE IS CUT!?
WE'RE TOTALLY LOCKED UP IN HERE!
WHAT DO WE DO!?
HEH HEH
THIS HAS BECOME INTERESTING, UKON
KNOCK
KNOCK
WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT IT!? YOU KNOW, YOU BETTER GET YOUR HEAD EXAMINED!!

WE HAVE NO WAY OF COMMUNICATING TO THE OUTSIDE!?
WHAT DO WE DO? THE CRIMINAL MIGHT BE IN THE SCHOOL PROWLING AROUND!
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING WE'RE GONNA BE MURDERED!
SAEKI-KUN, CALM DOWN...

YOU GOTTA HURRY UP AND CATCH HIM OR IT'S GONNA BE BAAAD! DO SOMETHING!!
FOR SURE THE CRIMINAL HAS CUT US OFF FROM THE VILLAGE BY BREAKING THE BRIDGE AND CUTTING THE PHONE LINE
WE'RE COMPLETELY ISOLATED AND ALL WAYS OF ESCAPING ARE IMPOSSIBLE
QU-QUIET! CALM DOWN!

BUT, THERE'S STILL HOPE.
IF WE WAIT UNTIL MORNING, THE POLICE WILL NOTICE I'M GONE...
...AND WHEN THEY SEE THE BRIDGE HAS BEEN DESTROYED THEY'LL COME TO CHECK IT OUT.
I'M OFFICER EDA.
IN ORDER, GIVE ME YOUR NAMES AND OCCUPATIONS..
PUPPETEER, HUH...
FUNASAKI HAZUKI. JUNIOR COLLEGE STUDENT.
TACHIBANA SAKON. PUPPETEER...
SAEKI TSUTOMU. SECOND-YEAR ART COLLEGE STUDENT...
SA...
SAITOU KENICHI CRAM SCHOOL STUDENT...
SCRATCH

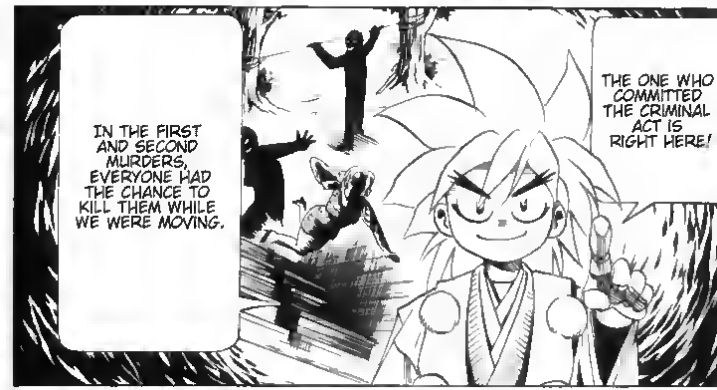
I'M IMPRESSED A COUNTRYSIDE OFFICER LIKE YOU KNEW SOMETHING LIKE THAT!
* BUNRAKU IS SOPHISTICATED PUPPET THEATER WRITTEN AND PERFORMED FOR ADULT AUDIENCES WHOSE POPULARITY PEAKED IN THE 17-18TH CENTURIES -- ED
YES.
YOUR GRANDFATHER IS THE FAMOUS BUNRAKU PUPPETEER TACHIBANA SAEMON, RIGHT? HE'S A LIVING NATIONAL TREASURE
ばっ
POP
EH? WAIT A SEC..
TACHIBANA SAKON IS THE OUTSIDER.
YOU, YOUR PUPPET IS...
AS A PUPPETEER, THE NATIONAL TREASURE'S GRANDSON IS SUSPICIOUS! ISN'T HE THE MOST QUESTIONABLE!?
THE CRIMINAL GIVES ADVANCE NOTICE BEFORE EACH MURDER WITH A PUPPET!
HE'S OBVIOUSLY A SUSPICIOUS OUTSIDER
WHY AREN'T YOU QUESTIONING HIM!?

WAIT A MINUTE HE'S NOT THAT KIND OF GUY...
HE IS DEFINITELY A SUSPICIOUS OUTSIDER
BUT ON THE OTHER HAND, BECAUSE HE'S A COMPLETE OUTSIDER I'D SAY HE HAS NO MOTIVE TO KILL.
SINCE THAT'S THE CASE, I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR THE REST OF YOU.
WHAT'S YOUR RELATION TO THE DEAD KUSUNOKI OSAMU?
IT'S CLEAR THAT THE CLASS REUNION WAS A LIE AIMED AT GATHERING YOU ALL HERE
WHY WERE YOU CALLED HERE!?

I DIDN'T KNOW HIM THAT WELL.
IN OUR CLASS HE WAS QUIET, DIDN'T REALLY STAND OUT. I REMEMBER I DIDN'T PLAY WITH HIM MUCH
THERE WASN'T REALLY ANYTHING...
UM...
UH...
WAAHH! I CAN'T STAND IT ANYMORE!!
BAM!
THIS ROOM, IN THIS ROOM... SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM...
NOTHING ANYONE THINKS IS GOING TO CHANGE WHAT I'M GONNA SAY!!

SOMEONE IN THIS ROOM IS THE CRIMINAL WHO HAS ALREADY MURDERED TWO PEOPLE!!!!
THERE'S NO REASON TO SAY THE CRIMINAL IS IN THIS ROOM.
NO, I WOULDN'T NECESSARILY SAY THAT EITHER..
WHAT!? YOU BASTARD!!
YOU HELD A GRUDGE! YOU KILLED THEM!!
STOP IT YOU TWO!
EVER SINCE WE WERE YOUNG, YOUKO HAS ALWAYS TREATED YOU SO HARSHLY, AND KOUJI ALWAYS CALLED YOU STUPID!
HEY...
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS NONSENSE!
SAYING SOMEONE HERE IS THE MURDERER ISN'T FUNNY! THERE'S NO BASIS FOR YOU TO THINK THAT!

AND IF HE'S NOT OUTSIDE...
OH, AFTER THE RAIN FELL THERE WEREN'T ANY FOOTPRINTS BUT OUR OWN...
WHEN WE WERE IN THE SCHOOL WE LOOKED ABSOLUTELY EVERYWHERE AND DIDN'T EVEN FIND A HUMAN SHADOW IF HE WERE TRESPASSING OUTSIDE WE SHOULD HAVE FOUND AT LEAST SOMETHING


IN THE FIRST AND SECOND MURDERS, EVERYONE HAD THE CHANCE TO KILL THEM WHILE WE WERE MOVING.
THE ONE WHO COMMITTED THE CRIMINAL ACT IS RIGHT HERE!

THAT'S RIGHT! ME TOO!
YOU... YOU'RE WRONG! AT THAT TIME I WAS THE FIRST TO GET TO THE P.A. ROOM! IT WAS SOMEONE WHO CAME LATER WHO PUSHED YOUKO!

KNOCK KNOCK
IT SEEMS EVERYONE'S ONLY SLIGHTLY THINKING. ONLY THINKING ABOUT THINGS AND NEVER USING THEIR MOUTHS PEOPLE ARE SO STRANGE!

AS A PUPPETEER, YOU SAY WHAT YOU WANT AT YOUR OWN CONVENIENCE?
QUIT THE JOKING WITH YOUR VENTRILOQUISM!!
GRAB
AT THAT TIME, WHO WAS YOUR WITNESS? EVERYONE WAS IN A PANIC
WAIT, IF THAT'S THE CASE, ISN'T IT THE OPPOSITE THAT IF EVERYONE'S TOGETHER UNTIL THE MORNING, WE'LL ALL BE SAFE?
EH?
TH-THAT'S RIGHT. THAT'S PERFECTLY RIGHT.
IF WE TAKE THE KEY AND STAY TOGETHER IN THE CLASSROOM TAKING TURNS KEEPING WATCH, THE CRIMINAL WOULD BE STUPID TO TRY ANYTHING!
SO THAT'S IT? THAT'S WHAT WE'LL DO?
I HAVE THE ART ROOM KEY!
SORRY, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO BE TOGETHER WITH A CUTTHROAT UNTIL MORNING!
I'LL LOCK MYSELF IN ALONE!

美術室
BAM!
WHY DOES HE HAVE THE KEY..!?
click
SAEKI!!
PAT
* ART ROOM
美術室
SAEKI! OPEN THE DOOR BITCH!!
BAM
BAM
OPEN THE DOOR!
THAT'S IT HE'S SELFISHLY LOCKED HIMSELF UP IN THE CLASSROOM
THAT'S WHAT THE CRIMINAL WANTS! FOR US TO BE SPLIT UP!
HE WON'T OPEN IT...!!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
HEH HEH, I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE. I'LL BE THE ONLY ONE TO SURVIVE... THE ONLY ONE TO..

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
HUH?

tick
tick
tick

I THINK THE FIRST VICTIM MUST HAVE FOUND IT.
A HEADLESS PUPPET. SOMEONE DROPPED IT

WHAT'S THAT YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING AT, SAKON?

THEN... WHY WERE THEY KILLED IN THE SAME WAY AS THE PUPPETS?

THE FIRST VICTIM'S HEAD WAS SLICED OFF WITH PIANO WIRE DUE TO THE BIKE'S SPEED AND WEIGHT AND THE COLLAPSING BRIDGE, ALL WORK PLANNED IN ADVANCE.
THE SECOND VICTIM WAS PUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS. WHOEVER IT WAS, THEY USED EVERYONE'S CONFUSION TO PULL IT OFF, SO IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE.

STOP SAYING SUCH NICE THINGS! I HAVE TOTAL CONFIDENCE IT WAS HIM!
STOP IT. A LONG TIME AGO WE WERE ALL GOOD FRIENDS, BACK WHEN OUR DESKS WERE ALL LINED UP TO STUDY
DAMN! HE TOOK THE KEY BEFOREHAND! THAT GUY IS DEFINITELY THE CRIMINAL!
.....
BOTH OF YOU KEEP WATCH FOR EACH OTHER. HE TOOK THE KEY AND LOCKED HIMSELF UP IN THE ROOM. HE'S AS SAFE AS HE CAN BE
STOP IT YOU TWO...
YYII!!
美術
* ART ROOM
AYYII!! STOP!!
PAT PAT トン トン
CHEER UP! I'LL ALWAYS PROTECT YOU HAZUKI-CHAN!
YEAH!!
THANK YOU, LIKON-KUN SAKON-KUN
.....

KYAAAAA!! P... PUPPET!!
THE PUPPET'S GONNA KILL ME!!!!
DAMN!!
TAP
THAT VOICE IS SAEKI'S ..!
click
OFFICER, HURRY...!
* ART ROOM
美術室
RATTLE
RATTLE
IT'S DARK INSIDE, I CAN'T SEE! I DON'T HAVE A KEY...
RATTLE
RATTLE

SAEKI... ARE... ARE YOU OKAY!?
HURRY WITH THE LIGHT!
BLAM!
!!
DOOOOM

Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 1 Chapter 1b

A Lost Heaven Project
#lost-heaven @ irc.mircx.com

Translated/Edited by
aechris

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WHUMP
KYAAAAA!!!

MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET PLAYING ALONE IN THIS ROOM, DAD CALLS BUT HE DOESN'T WAKE UP. MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET.
ANOTHER PUPPET...
THE DOOR WAS LOCKED! THE CRIMINAL COULDN'T HAVE ESCAPED!
EVERY-ONE EXAMINE THE ROOM!
DAT
.....
WHAT IS IT, SAKON?

HUH? YEAH, THERE'S DEFINATELY TWO
WHY ARE THERE TWO PUPPETS THIS TIME...?
WHAT'S THIS...?
THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THIS WHEN WE ALL CAME RUNNING HERE THERE WAS A STRANGE FEELING AROUND
THERE'S CLEARLY SOMETHING HERE WE'RE NOT GETTING...
NOT GETTING?
I DON'T GET IT.
HERE!
TH... THIS PUPPET IS...

鉄壁のアリバイ
そして
完全密室殺人
!!!
EVERYONE HAD AN IMPENETRABLE ALIBI AND THE MURDER HAPPENED IN A ROOM WITH NO EXITS!
ON TOP OF THAT, THIS ROOM HAS NO OTHER EXITS
WELL, THE PUPPET WANTED INTO THE ROOM! WHERE DID HE GET IN? WHERE DID HE ESCAPE?
STRANGE, THE WINDOW AND DOOR ARE SAFELY LOCKED...
AND WHEN EVERYONE WAS IN THE SCIENCE ROOM WATCHING OUT FOR EACH OTHER, AT THAT TIME WHEN THE MURDER TOOK PLACE...
WAAAAAAA!!

STAY COOL, SAITOU-KUN!
OSAMU'S SPIRIT IS GOING TO KILL US ALL!!
IT MUST BE A SPIRIT!
HUH?
WH...WHAT'S THIS!?
WHAT? I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING ...
IT SEEMS LIKE HE WAS WRITING WITH THIS TURPENTINE HIS FINGERTIP SMELLS THE SAME
THAT'S BECAUSE NOTHING'S THERE
IT SEEMS BY THE MARKS LIKE HE WAS TRYING TO WRITE SOMETHING HERE ..
WHAT IS IT?
LOOK AT HIS FINGER.

HE DREW IN TRANSPARENT OIL? HOW CAN WE READ A MESSAGE IN DYE INK? WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SHIKON?
scratch
WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO SEE IT CLEARLY LIKE THIS.
H!
THERE ARE LETTERS IN THE FIRE!
H.F...!!!!
IF H.F ARE INITIALS...
THESE INITIALS..
WHOEVER HAS THE INITIALS H.F...

M...
ME...!?
H.F.
HAZUKI
FUNASAKI!!
roll
BAM
SLIDE
THAT'S...
DOOOOON
My aspect is a good aspect. The punishment for taking another's toy is to become a slave. My aspect is a good aspect.

WAAAAAA!!
SHE'S THE KILLER!!
THAT GIRL IS THE CRIMINAL! TSUTOMU WROTE IT FOR US!!
H.. HOLD ON A SEC! WE HAVEN'T DECIDED IF SHE'S REALLY THE CRIMINAL YET!
FOR SURE IT WAS YOU...!!!
PANT
PANT
SHUT UP! IF YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT, I'LL KILL HER MYSELF!!
click
Y.. YOU'RE WRONG... IT WASN'T..!
S.. STOP!!

OUR BULLYING DROVE HIM TO SUICIDE, SO NOW YOU GATHERED THE MEMBERS OF THE PUPPET CLUB HERE TO GET REVENGE FOR OSAMU!
SO THAT'S IT! OUT OF THE FIVE OF US, YOU WERE THE ONLY ONE WITH SYMPATHY FOR OSAMU!
O...OSAMU-KUN DIED BY SUICIDE...!?
SUICIDE...!?
DON'T PLAY DUMB!
TIMID OSAMU WAS THE PERFECT TARGET...
BACK THEN IT WAS POPULAR TO USE THE PUPPETS AT THE CLUB...

TODAY LET'S START BY TAKING OFF THEIR CLOTHES, OKAY OSAMU-CHAN!?
ズル
.....
HEY OSAMU-CHAN, IT'S TIME TO PLAY WITH THE PUPPETS YOU LOVE SO MUCH!
DO YOU GET IT? YOU'RE A BLOCKHEAD, AND SO IS THIS BLOCKHEAD PUPPET!
WE'RE DOING THIS BECAUSE YOU'RE LIKE OUR PUPPET!!!
HEY HEY, HURRY AND BE LIKE THE PUPPET!
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT. SO IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT?
THAT'S ..
HE HUNG HIMSELF!
DAY AFTER DAY THE BULLYING ESCALATED UNTIL OSAMU COULDN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.

STOP!!
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU KILLED THEM, BUT THE ONLY TWO PEOPLE LEFT ARE YOU AND ME! AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT I'M NOT THE CRIMINAL...!
I THOUGHT THAT'S WHY YOU CHANGED SCHOOLS ...!
THERE'S NO ONE IT COULD BE OTHER THAN YOU!!
BANG!
!
OFFICER!

click
AH HA AH HAA HA HA! THIS TIME YOU'RE GONNA DIE!
WHUM?
STOP!!
BANG!!
GWAAAA!

MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET. THE PUNISHMENT FOR TAKING ANOTHER'S TOYS IS TO BECOME A BLOWFISH. MY PUPPET IS A GOOD PUPPET.
My puppet is a good puppet. The punishment for taking another's toys is to become a blowfish. My puppet is a good puppet.
.....

IT... IT WASN'T ME...
NOW THERE'S JUST ONE LEFT...
AGAIN THERE WAS AN ADVANCE NOTICE IN A SONG AS TO HOW THEY WOULD DIE.
.....
WAIT A SEC!
HEY, HOLD ON!
PAT
PANT
PANT

PAT
PANT
PANT
PAT
WE LOST SIGHT OF HER.
SO WHAT HAPPENED? THE TRICK BEHIND EVERYTHING THAT OCCURRED...
DO YOU GET IT, SAKON?
TO SOLVE THE PUZZLE OF THIS CASE...
...WE NEED TO ORDER THE INCIDENTS AND THINK ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED.

FIRST, INCIDENT ONE?
WHY DID THE CRIMINAL CHOOSE TO CUT OFF HIS HEAD IN SUCH A DIFFICULT MANNER?
...ND WHY DID HE KILL THE PUPPET IN THE SAME WAY...? WHY...?
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
THE CRIMINAL ISN'T A CUTTHROAT MURDERER. A DEMON CALLED REVENGE IS IN HIS HEART, BUT HIS HEAD IS AS CLEAR AS AN ANGEL'S.
BUT IN THAT CASE HE WOULD BE TOO DRIVEN BY EMOTION.
WELL, IF THE CRIMINAL'S MOTIVE WAS REVENGE, HE WOULD HAVE WANTED THEM TO TASTE A LITTLE FEAR, WOULDN'T HE?
WOULDN'T THE CRIMINAL FAN UP THE TERROR FOR LATER MURDERS? USE IT AGAINST THEM?

AND WHAT ABOUT THE SECOND MURDER? WHO WAS IT THAT PUSHED HER DOWN THE STAIRS?
I DON'T KNOW. THAT OFFICE LADY WAS THE LAST TO COME, BUT IT COULD HAVE BEEN ANYONE BEFORE BEFORE HER BECAUSE EVERYONE WAS IN A PANIC!
I'D SAY THAT ANYONE COULD HAVE COMMITTED THE CRIME..
SO, WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD MURDER ?
AHH, NO ONE COULD HAVE DONE THAT! THAT ROOM WAS TOTALLY SEALED OFF!
!?
RIGHT! THE KILLER HAD TO BE IN THAT CLOSED-OFF ROOM!! SO FOR SURE THERE SHOULD BE CLUES HIDDEN THERE!!
ARE YOU THINKING SOMETHING ABOUT THE THIRD MURDER..?
THAT TIME THERE WERE TWO PUPPETS.
RIGHT, AT THAT TIME THERE *WERE* TWO PUPPETS... WHY WERE TWO PUPPETS NECESSARY IN THAT CLOSED ROOM?
THEN THAT DYE INK MESSAGE SHOWED THAT HAZUKI WAS THE CRIMINAL.
SOMETHING WAS UP THERE. THE OMINOUS FEELING OVER THE ROOM... SOMETHING STRANGE WAS UP.

GRANDPA ONCE TOLD ME,
"USING PUPPETS IS LIKE USING PEOPLE. VENTRILOQUISM IS LIKE READING MINDS. MIMICRY ISN'T JUST THE TONE OF VOICE, BUT THE INNER VOICE AS WELL".
WOOOOOO
WELL SAKON, BECOME THE THIRD VICTIM. USE THE VICTIM'S VOICE TO RETURN TO THAT ROOM...
.....

SIGH
スゥ---
SAEKI TSUTOMU ARE YOU IN THE ART ROOM?
YES
I AM... I AM SECLUDED, ALONE IN THE ART ROOM.
IT'S SCARY...
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING...?
BUT, BUT THE SCARIEST THING...
I'M THINKING ABOUT THE KILLED PEOPLE FROM KITAMURA AND THE EERIE SONGS. I'M ALONE, SHAKING WITH FEAR
GASP GASP
PUPPETS?
COULD IT BE YOU'RE SEEING A PUPPET...?
...SEEING ONE OF THOSE DEAD WARNING PUPPETS IS THE SCARIEST THING OF ALL...!!!

GYAAAA!!
THE PUPPET'S GONNA KILL ME!!!!
I SEE...
GRAB
THEN... I SCREAMED IN FEAR...
I SEE IT! IN THE CORNER OF THE ROOM... IN THE DARKNESS... IS THAT PUPPET...
THAT'S IT... THE MYSTERY OF THE TWO PUPPETS IS SOLVED...

PLEASE WAKE UP, UKON...! WE'VE SOLVED ONE OF THE MYSTERIES.
REALLY? WHO'S THE CRIMINAL!?
MMPH
ARE YOU OKAY? THE CRIMINAL PLACED THE WARNING PUPPETS IN THE ART ROOM AHEAD OF TIME.
WE HEARD HIM FROM THE SCIENCE ROOM. WE WERE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT HIS SCREAM CAME WHEN HE WAS BEING MURDERED, WHEN IN FACT...
...IT WAS THE INSTANT HE DISCOVERED THE PUPPET THAT HE SCREAMED!
IF THAT'S THE CASE THE DYE INK MESSAGE ABOUT HAZUKI BEING THE CRIMINAL IS WRONG...
STOP
SOMETHING'S STILL NOT QUITE RIGHT. SOMETHING...
BUT STILL...

WHO ARE YOU!?
HAZUKI'S NOT THE CRIMINAL!
THAT... THAT'S IT...
PANT
PANT
!
!!
BUMP
I KNOW WHO THE CRIMINAL IS!!

OVER THERE!!
STEP
HEH HEH HEH ...
HEY, HEY! YOU BASTARD! GET YOUR HANDS OFF OF HAZUKI!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR MOTIVE FOR KILLING PEOPLE IS, BUT HAZUKI-CHAN HAS NO RELATION TO KUSUNOKI OSAMU'S SUICIDE!

YOU ARE THE REAL CRIMINAL!
ONCE I KILL THIS GIRL, MY REVENGE WILL BE COMPLETE!!
YOU'VE GOT IT BACK-WARDS!
IT WAS SURELY YOU. YOU WERE THE FIRST ONE TO JUMP INTO THE ROOM OF THE THIRD MURDER.
IN THE DARKNESS YOU STABBED HIM WHEN HE WAS STILL ALIVE.

OFFICER EDA!!!!
THE COP!?
WH...!? BUT HE GOT SHOT...
THE PISTOL WAS PURPOSELY SNATCHED AWAY. THE FIRST SHOT WAS WITH A RED BULLET. THE SECOND SHOT STUCK IN THE CYLINDER, CAUSING AN EXPLOSION INSIDE THE GUN.
IT WAS HARDER TO KILL THE THIRD VICTIM BECAUSE HE TOOK EXTRA CAUTION. THE FOURTH WAS THE OPPOSITE. WHERE HE USED FEAR TO KILL...
THE PUPPETS WERE USED IN THE FIRST AND SECOND MURDERS TO STIR UP FEAR.
INDEED. BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW IT WAS ME...!?
...I THOUGHT ABOUT IT A LOT, AND THE DARK TRUTH BECAME MORE AND MORE CLEAR.
AT THE TIME THE MYSTERY WAS UNRAVELING
IN ORDER TO MAKE HAZUKI LOOK GUILTY WHEN YOU PRETENDED TO EXAMINE THE BODY YOU TOOK THE CHANCE TO WRITE THE INITIALS!!
A DYING COLLEGE STUDENT IN HIS SITUATION WOULDN'T CALL HER 'H.F'.
HE WOULD WRITE 'H.T'.
THE DYE INK MESSAGE SAID 'H.F'.
!!
FUNASAKI
HAZUKI WAS A TRANSFER STUDENT WHO CHANGED HER NAME TO 'FUNASAKI'.
TAKAHASHI
TODAY WHEN THE OLD CLASSMATES GOT TOGETHER, IT WAS THE FIRST THEY HAD EVER HEARD THIS
THE DYE INK MESSAGE.

WHY?? WHEN THERE WAS SUPPOSEDLY STILL A BRUTAL MURDERER INSIDE?
WHEN YOU GOT INTO THE ART ROOM YOU SHOT THE LOCK OFF THEN PUT YOUR GUN AWAY
PAT
BECAUSE YOU KNEW THERE WASN'T A MURDERER INSIDE!
THEN, IN THE DARKNESS YOU PULLED A KNIFE FROM YOUR POCKET AND USED IT TO KILL HIM!

HEH.
INDEED YOU'VE SHOWN US ALL..
SOLVING A VICTIM'S MENTALITY BY HAVING YOUR PUPPET TALK THROUGH IT WITH CALM JUDGMENT IS YOUR WAY TO PRODUCE SOUND REASONING.
AT FIRST GLANCE, YOU SEEM LIKE AN ECCENTRIC PUPPETEER. WHEN IN ACTUALITY YOU'RE ONE PERSON IN A DOUBLE ROLE. A CALCULATIVE ADMIRABLE TECHNIQUE.
THAT'S HOW I KNEW YOU WERE THE CRIMINAL!

BUT,
HEH HEH HEH... CERTAINLY I COULD HAVE HAD THAT KIND OF LIFE...
WITH YOUR HEAD AND COURAGE, YOU TOO COULD HAVE A SUCCESSFUL CAREER WITH THE POLICE FORCE.
MY YOUNGER BROTHER'S DEATH CHANGED MY LIFE!!!
BECAUSE OF THAT LIFE, I LIVED APART FROM OSAMU.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG I WAS ALWAYS HOSPITALIZED ON A SICKBED IN THE VILLAGE'S HOSPITAL.
BUT HE STILL MADE THE LONG TRIP TO SHOW HE CARED. TO TALK. TO PLAY. JUST FOR ME.
病院
KUSUNOKI OSAMU'S OLDER BROTHER ...!?
!!

HE TAUGHT ME HOW TO MAKE PUPPETS.
AH, YOUR PUPPET GIVES ME A GOOD FEELING. HE'S A GOOD PUPPET.
HOW ABOUT THIS? IS IT A GOOD ONE?
THEN, WHEN THE SAKURA BLOOMED AND FLEW LIKE A SNOW STORM, OSAMU KILLED HIMSELF.
IRONICALLY, WHEN HE DIED THEY CONDUCTED A MARROW TRANSPLANT WITH ME SO I COULD CONTINUE LIVING.
WHY DO YOU HAVE THOSE WOUNDS?
OH, THEY'RE NOTHING. TODAY I'M GOING TO SHOW YOU A PLAY SO YOU'LL GET BETTER SOON!
THE LAST THING OSAMU SAW WAS THE SCENERY HE GREW UP AROUND. I DECIDED THAT'S WHERE I WANTED TO LIVE SO I CAME HERE AND BECAME A POLICEMAN.
BUT HE NEVER WANTED TO WORRY ME. HE NEVER GAVE ANY INDICATION HE WAS HAVING TROUBLES
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME KIND OF HORRIBLE BULLYING

WHEN I FIRST RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE NO ONE REALIZED I WAS OSAMU'S OLDER BROTHER.
NEVERTHELESS, I BELIEVED OSAMU'S DEATH HAD OCCURRED FOR SOME KIND OF PROFOUND REASON, AND THAT I COULD LIVE A QUIET LIFE IN THIS VILLAGE.
OF COURSE, MY HATRED GREW FOR THE KIDS WHO HAD BULLIED OSAMU.
IF I HADN'T HAVE HEARD THAT...
HOW HAVE YOU ALL BEEN!?
YO! IT'S BEEN A WHILE!
IT WAS LAST YEAR'S VILLAGE FESTIVAL
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THEY HAD ALL RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE IN QUITE SOME TIME...

AHH, OSAMU, RIGHT? YOU CAN'T CALL BACK THE DEAD, HEH HEH HEH.
IT'S TOO BAD THE LEADING MEMBER ISN'T HERE!
EHH, I THINK I'M GETTING DRUNK...
HEY, I'LL TAKE ANOTHER ONE!
yak yak
chatter
AND WHAT A SIMPLE WAY TO GO!
BLOCKHEAD! BLOCKHEAD! HE'S OUR TOY!!
HA HA HA
THAT GUY, ALL HE DID WAS MAKE PUPPETS AND KEEP TO HIMSELF!
WELL, IT'S GOOD HE'S DEAD! HE WAS WORTHLESS ANYWAYS!
WE PLAYED WITH THE TOY TOO MUCH AND IN THE END WE BROKE IT!
YEAH, HE WAS AN IDIOT!
SMASH!
girr
THAT REALLY WAS HIS SITUATION, WASN'T IT! HA HA HA HA HA HA!

MY HEART BURNED UNCONTROLLABLY WITH THE FLAMES OF REVENGE.
僕は心の中に燃え上がる復讐の炎を抑えることはできなかった
MY KIND LITTLE BROTHER THAT YOU...
UNDERSTAND MY FEELINGS FOR THOSE WHO KILLED MY ONLY BROTHER!!
HE WAS 12 YEARS OLD! HE DIED WITHOUT KNOWING A SINGLE LOVE!
DIDN'T YOU NOTICE? THIS PUPPET IS DIFFERENT FROM THE OTHERS THE HEAD IS BIGGER
SO THIS PUPPET IS YOUR BROTHER'S ...?
THE TRUTH IS, THERE'S A SIMPLE TRICK TO IT. HERE, WATCH
THAT'S RIGHT. OSAMU'S MOMENTO.
THEY REALLY WERE HORRIBLE GROUP.
.....

DON'T YOU THINK YOUR BROTHER WAS IN LOVE TOO? THAT LOOKS JUST LIKE HAZUKI
HE WAS EMBARRASSED ABOUT IT SO HE COVERED HER FACE WITH A MASK. HER KIND HEART REALLY SHOWS THROUGH ON THIS GOOD PUPPET.
TH... THAT'S!?
DID
slide
O... OSAMU
AH...
OSAMU -KUN...
O...

ガ…
PAT
I SEE…
HE WAS AN INNOCENT LITTLE GUY, THAT BRAT OSAMU WAS.
YOU'RE A STRANGE PUPPETEER. IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE…
EVERYTHING WENT ACCORDING TO PLAN.
SWISH
SLICE
AH!
BUT I'M HAPPY. I ALMOST MADE A TERRIBLE ERROR WITH THE ONLY ONE LEFT… THANK YOU…
STAGGER

キアイ…
Y... YOUR BROTHER ALSO...
OSAMU
LIKE THIS, THE CURTAIN CLOSED ON THE PLAY, REVENGE SPIRIT IN THE ABANDONED SCHOOL.

THAT BOY WAS INNOCENT. TOO BAD LIKON'S NOT LIKE THAT.
OSAMU ...
GOODBYE.
FOR SURE YOU'LL MEET US AT A FESTIVAL SOMEWHERE!!
THIS PUPPET IS AN IMPORTANT MOMENTO OF OSAMU.
OH, SAYONARA GOODB...
MMPH
HEY SAKON, YOU SAY YOUR FAREWELLS AND ALL THAT TOO!
I WONDER IF WE'LL MEET SOMEWHERE AGAIN.

カラン
RATTLE
GOODBYE.
HEY SAKON! YOU GOT TO SHAKE HANDS WITH HAZUKI
BUT I WAS THE ONE WHO GOT TO SAY GOODBYE!!
SOMETIME, SOMEWHERE, WE'LL MEET AGAIN.

Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 1 Chapter 2

A Lost Heaven Project
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★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

豆州弐面鬼傀儡地獄 第一段 嵐の傀儡屋敷

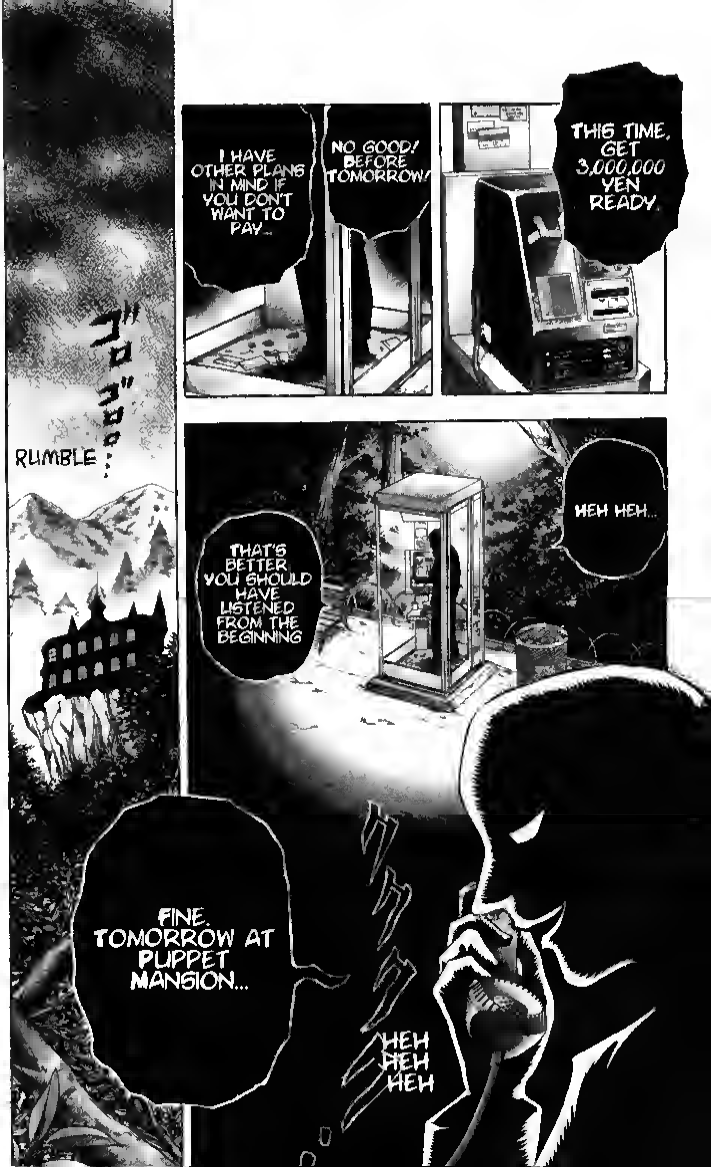
ZUSHUU TWO-FACED DEMON PUPPET HELL PART 1 STORMY PUPPET MANSION

かの地に鬼女ありし。
我が子に乳を与えんため
夜な夜な出没しては
人の子を喰らう。
これを弐面鬼という。

ONCE THERE LIVED A DEMONESS WHO APPEARED NIGHT AFTER NIGHT TO STEAL AWAY HUMAN CHILDREN TO FEED TO HER OFFSPRING.

ONE YEAR, ONE DAY, ONE STORMY NIGHT, THE COURT NOBLE MINAMOTO YORIMITSU SLAYED THE DEMON WITH HIS TREASURED BLADE -ONIKIRIMARU- AND THE SOUL OF THE TWO-FACED DEMON WAS SEALED INTO A STATUE.

豆州弐面鬼傀儡地獄
第一段 嵐の傀儡屋敷
ZUSHUU TWO-FACED DEMON PUPPET HELL
PART 1 STORMY PUPPET MANSION


I HAVE OTHER PLANS IN MIND IF YOU DON'T WANT TO PAY...
NO GOOD! BEFORE TOMORROW!
THIS TIME, GET 3,000,000 YEN READY.
ゴロゴロ
RUMBLE...
THAT'S BETTER YOU SHOULD HAVE LISTENED FROM THE BEGINNING
HEH HEH...
FINE. TOMORROW AT PUPPET MANSION...
クックック
HEH HEH HEH

AOYAMA, TOKYO
IN A QUIET NEIGHBORHOOD ENCLOSED IN WOODS, A QUIET OLD MANSION SEEMINGLY FROZEN IN TIME.
THE OFFICIAL RESIDENCE OF THE NATIONAL TREASURE, BUNRAKU MASTER TACHIBANA SAEMON.
橘左衛門
GRAB!
TACHIBANA SAEMON

HAVE A SAFE TRIP, YOUNG MASTER!
IF YOU GET LONELY ON THE WAY, HURRY BACK, OKAY?
YOU WANT YOUR MOM TO FOLLOW YOU?
YOU SURE YOU'LL BE OKAY GOING BY YOURSELF?
I'M ONLY GOING TO IZU.
REALLY, I'LL BE FINE.
W...WELL, I'M LEAVING NOW.
OHH SAKON
ふう
uhh
どっ
BAM
AH HA HA, I'M OFF!
YOU FORGOT A PICTURE OF YOUR MOTHER!

HA HA, DON'T WORRY.
HE'S JUST GOING TO STUDY PUPPETS.
BUT I DO WORRY, GRANDPA. ANYTIME HE PLAYS WITH PUPPETS, IT'S LIKE HE GOES INTO SOME KIND OF TRANCE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT HIM NOT MY GRANDSON
HIS TECHNIQUE IS PRETTY GOOD, ALTHOUGH HE'S USUALLY UNRELIABLE...
BUT ONCE THAT KID PICKS UP A PUPPET, HE'S EXTRAORDINARY.
RUMBLE
UH OH.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA RAIN.
KREE

WELL SAKON, SHALL WE GET GOING?
KAORUKO ...!?
open
大×4...
BAM
どさっ
DON'T JUST STAND THERE!
WHY DO YOU HAVE YOUR LUGGAGE?
WHERE ARE WE GOING?
?
AHH, I CAN'T WAIT!
AND, AND, A HANDSOME, RICH SON OF A NOBLE WILL SURELY..
?
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO GO, JUST ONCE!
IT'LL BE GREAT! GREAT ATMOSPHERE, SO MANY GREAT THINGS TO EAT!

NOT THIS TIME. UM, WHAT ABOUT YOUR JOB?
IT'S OKAY, DON'T WORRY!
ha ha ha
I TOOK A HOLIDAY JUST FOR THIS!
LET'S GO!
Hey, wait.
brrrmm
YOU WERE CALLED BY THE MANSION TO SHOW THEM YOUR PUPPETRY, RIGHT?
LET'S GO TO IZU, SHALL WE? YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD LOSE ME BY LEAVING EARLY, HUH SAKON?
YOU'RE SO YOUNG, YET SO GOOD AT USING PUPPETS.
YOU SHOULD FOCUS ON MORE ENJOYABLE THINGS...
WELL, UH— I..
JUST SPIT IT OUT!!
THERE! THAT! THAT'S THE BAD PART ABOUT YOU!
EVEN IF IT'S FAMILY TRADITION, DON'T YOU FEEL RELUCTANT ABOUT FOLLOWING GRANDFATHER'S FOOTSTEPS?
brrrmm
I'VE REALLY LIKED PUPPETS SINCE I WAS SMALL
THEY'RE NICE FRIENDS WHO WOULD ALWAYS RESPOND TO ME

WEIRD BOX. !?
ha ha ha!
BY THE WAY, WHAT'S IN THAT WEIRD BOX?
I've always worried about my nephew
your puppets are your friends, huh ?
EH?
I'VE SLEPT IN THAT BOX FOR MANY YEARS!
DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!!
UH?
hch
WHAT AN IDIOT THING TO SAY MORE LIKE I BROUGHT HIM ALONG!
I DO IT ALL SAKON IS A LITTLE SLOW, YA KNOW
knock knock!
AHHH, SAKON! YOU BROUGHT UKON ALONG!?

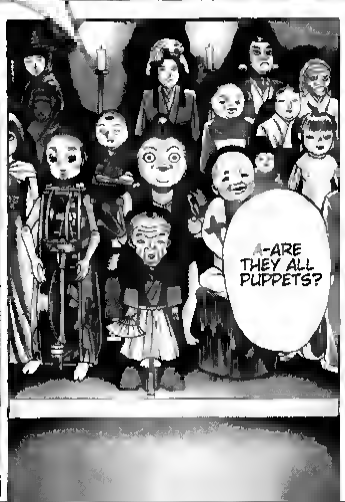
PLEASE DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT TO LIKON. WE'VE BEEN PARTNERS FOR A REALLY LONG TIME.
HEH, SO THERE.
ゴロゴロ
RUMBLE
EH?
WE'LL GET ALONG WELL EH AUNTIE!?
WHO ARE YOU CALLING AUNTIE? CALL ME KAORUKO! KAORUKO!
THAT IS...
SAKON'S PERSONALITY CHANGES AS HE CONTROLS THE PUPPET
I SEE
ぞぉ～
WHEN THEY ARE TOGETHER, SOMETHING NEW IN HIM AWAKENS.
WHY IS YOUR FACE BLUE?

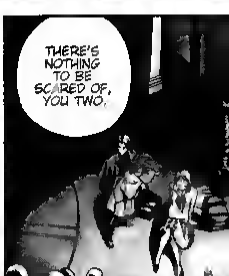
CRACK
ドドドド
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK

THIS IS WHERE IM GONNA MEET A RICH SON OF A NOBLE!?
WHAT'S WITH THIS CREEPY WESTERN-STYLE HOUSE!?
HOLD ON... THIS ISN'T EXACTLY WHAT YOU PROMISED
HEY, NOBODY SAID WE CAME TO FIND SOME RICH GUYS.
NO WAY! SO THEN WHY DID WE COME TO THIS CREEPY PLACE AGAIN?
silence
EEEEEE!
click
kreee
WHO JUST OPENED ...?
EH?

L-LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!!
L-

THE NICKNAME OF THIS PLACE IS 'PUPPET MANSION', AN INN WITH AN APPRECIATION FOR PUPPETS FROM EVERY ERA, EVERY ORIGIN
PUPPET MANSION?


A-ARE THEY ALL PUPPETS?


THERE'S NOTHING TO BE SCARED OF, YOU TWO.

EH?

WHAT THE? SO I'M THE SAME AS THESE PUPPETS? I HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE WITH THAT.

SAKON...
ARE

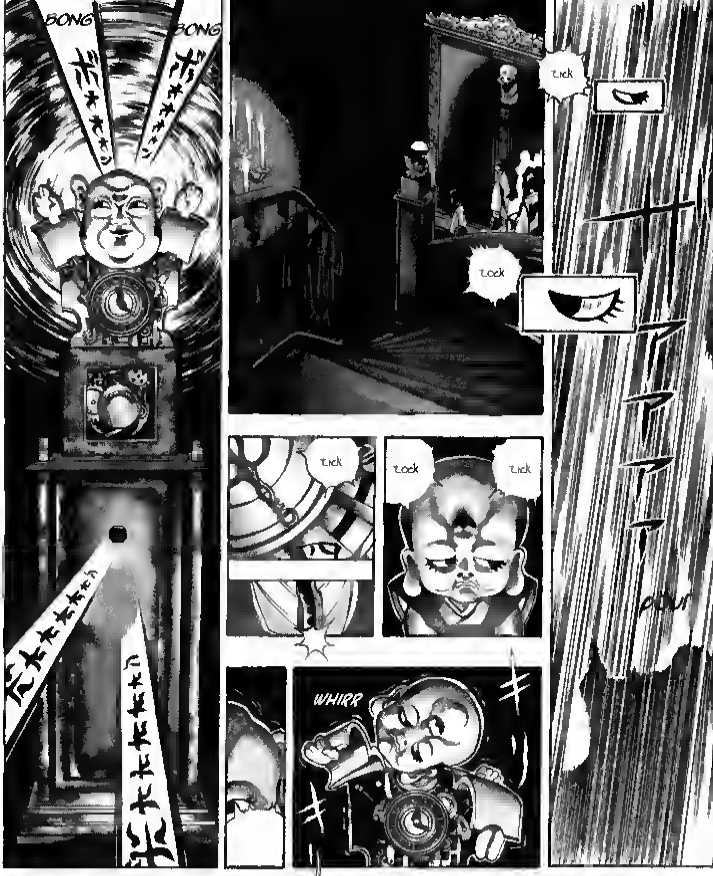
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY TO THAT?!
LOOK, I CAME HERE FOR A VACATION AND I GOT ALL THESE CREEPY PUPPETS INSTEAD!
LIKE I SAID, I'M HERE FOR .

WHAT? IMPOSSIBLE! ARE YOU TELLING ME YOU HAVE A PURPOSE FOR THIS 'FIELD TRIP'?

HUH?
SO-SO MUCH POWER
pant pant
NO! SO THERE'S NO TASTY FOOD AND NO RICH NOBLE'S SON!?
DIDN'T YOU GET THAT WHEN WE CAME IN?
WAAAAH!
SAKON, YOU LIAR
WOW, LOOK. THE INTENSITY THE TWO-FACED DEMON GIVES OFF REALLY IS MAGNIFICENT
THE TWO-FACED DEMON STATUE.
MY PURPOSE IS RIGHT THERE.
RIGHT FROM THE LEGEND WRITTEN AT THE END OF THE HEIAN PERIOD. A NATIONAL TREASURE.
THAT STATUE..
EH?
AWW, OH WELL...

WASN'T THAT DEMON'S FACE DIFFERENT BEFORE?
!!
SHOCK
THEY SAY THAT THE FACE IS A REFLECTION OF YOUR HEART DEPENDING ON WHAT'S INSIDE, YOU'LL SEE A DIFFERENT FACE
DEPENDING ON WHAT ANGLE YOU LOOK AT IT, YOU CAN EITHER SEE THE FACE OF A DEMONESS OR THE FACE OF A BODHISATTVA

PLEASE MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME...
.....
LET'S GET OUT OF ...
I-I'M KORUKO. THANKS FOR LETTING US STAY HERE.
PAT PAT
I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA BE EATEN ...
WELCOME TO PUPPET MANSION.
HOSTESS SANJOU SHIZUKA


BONG
BONG
tick
tock
tick
tock
tick
WHIRR

click
SAKON?
KNOCK KNOCK
コン コン

shake
shake
IT'S SHAMEFUL THAT YOU CAN'T WALK SINGLE FILE.
SHUT UP! THE ONES IN THE LOBBY SCARED YOU TOO!
DON'T WALK SO CLOSE TO ME.
AREN'T YOU TWO SCARED BY THESE CREEPY PUPPETS?
KYAAAAA!!!
THIS PLACE IS TOO CREEPY!
I WANNA GO HOME!!
IT IS A LITTLE SCARY, HUH
YOU THINK SO?

WHAT KINDA GLOOMY INN IS THIS?
WELL, WE HAVE NO CHOICE ANYWAYS, IT'S A JOB
I WISH WE WERE FILMING IN THE ANNEX.
EH?
どやどや
OH, GOOD. MORE GUESTS HAVE ARRIVED.
MAYBE EVERYONE'S GONNA BE EATEN BY THE HOSTESS... HEH HEH
I WONDER IF IT'S A TV BROADCAST?
THE SHOT FROM THE MAIN BUILDING SEEMS TO BE BETTER
EITHER WAY, IT'S NICE TO HAVE THIS PLACE BUSIER
HUH?
どぅふぅ

HEH HEH DEDUCTION IS MY SPECIALTY!
DO YOU THINK ONE OF THE GUESTS LOST THESE?
ぴゅるるるー
WOO HOO!
I KNOW WHOSE THEY ARE!
POLICE HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION SEARCH UNIT! TEMPORARY INSPECTOR TACHIBANA KAORUKO!
UH, YOU ALREADY KNOW WHOSE THEY ARE?
at your age you still act like this?
IN SHORT, THE OWNER IS A BAD KID FROM A GOOD FAMILY!
THEY'RE AN EXPENSIVE BRAND, SO THE OWNER MUST BE FROM A RICH FAMILY. RIGHT? THE BROWN CREAM ON THE NOSE PADS IS SUNTAN LOTION.
THIS ISN'T THE SEASON FOR SUNGLASSES! AND GANGS WEAR THEM ALL YEAR!
THE OWNER IS A PUNK IN A BIKER GANG WITH RICH PARENTS!

THE OWNER IS A SHORT GIRL, PROBABLY VERY BEAUTIFUL.
PERFECT SOLUTION, NATURALLY!
EH?
BASED ON THIS EVIDENCE, I'D SUSPECT THESE SUNGLASSES BELONG TO SOMEONE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT BUSINESS, PROBABLY TO HIDE HER FACE FROM THE PUBLIC
THE STUFF ON THE NOSE PADS IS MAKEUP. IF YOU LOOK CAREFULLY, YOU CAN SEE AN EYELASH WITH MASCARA ON IT.
THERE'S ALSO A SMALL FINGERPRINT ON THE LENS.

AN 18-YEAR OLD FORMER FIGURE SKATING QUEEN
IN ADDITION TO SAKON'S THEORY, IT'S A BEAUTIFUL GIRL 160CM TALL WITH THREE SIZES 84-57-84
I DON'T THINK BIKE THUGS WEAR MAKEUP AND MASCARA!!
HA HA HA HA
KAKAKAKA
SAKON, YOU'RE A JERK ARE YOU SAYING MY CONCLUSION IS WRONG!?
MMPH
おお
SHUT UP UKON! HOW DO YOU FIGURE ALL THAT!?
EH?
BECAUSE SHE JUST SHOWED UP
KAWAI MAI-CHAN!
MAGNIFICENT IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT, PLUS A TV COMMERCIAL QUEEN!

WHAAAAT??
ぐえ GAXK
MY... MY SUNGLASSES!
TALENT KAWAI MAI
ひゅる whoooo
HEADQUARTERS' BEST DETECTIVE'S PROUD DEDUCTION... BESTED BY A MERE PUPPETEER.
pour
ザアアア...
bong
ボオオン
IT'S OKAY! YOUR UKON-SAMA WILL KEEP YOU AS SAFE AS POSSIBLE!
HEE HEE. I'M GETTING EMOTIONAL! I JUST MET MAI-CHAN!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...
THIS INN REALLY DOES HAVE A CREEPY FEELING TO IT, HUH?
パタン

VENTRILOQUISM? THIS GUY'S AN IDIOT! I HAVE TO SAY EVERYTHING FOR HIM! HA HA HA HA!
WHY ARE YOU SO SHY, UKON?
poke poke
I'M ALSO A FAN OF YOU, PUPPET-SAN!
YOU'RE A VERY SKILLED VENTRILOQUIST!
AND YOU LOOK LIKE A PUPPET YOURSELF!
.....
M... MAI-CHAN
CHEER UP! IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU, I'LL BE YOUR FRIEND ANY TIME!
YOU TWO ARE REALLY CLOSE, HUH? I'M ENVIOUS
BEFORE YOU REALIZE IT, YOU'RE ALL ALONE.
UNTIL THEY'RE THE ONLY ONE LEFT.
NOT IN THE SHOW BUSINESS WORLD THERE'S NOTHING BUT ONE RIVAL AFTER ANOTHER TO KICK YOU DOWN...

HEE HEE! GOTCHA! YOU FELL FOR IT! I CAN'T DO WELL IN THIS PROFESSION IF I CAN'T STAND THIS KIND OF PROBLEM
HUH?
HEE...
YES
WELL SHALL WE GO, MS SATOU?
HEEEY!
NOT SURPRISING, COMING FROM A PERFORMER.
UHH?
MAI-CHAN!! IT'S BEEN TOO LONG!!
AH?
AH! HEY, HEY!

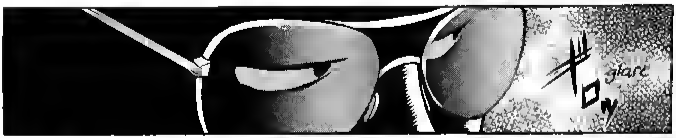
WHEN I HEARD I COULD BE ON TV WITH YOU I WAS THRILLED!
.....
FOR SURE! HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
YUKI-CHAN AND MORI-KUN! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN FOREVER!
THEY'RE MAI-CHAN'S OLD CLASSMATES.
SO SHE DOES HAVE SOME REAL FRIENDS...?
YEP! THEY'RE MY GOOD FRIENDS FROM JUNIOR HIGH!
RIGHT?
'BEST FRIEND'? WHERE CELEBRITIES VISIT WITH OLD FRIENDS AND TELL OLD STORIES? NOT THAT POPULAR TV SHOW?
THEY CAME FOR A TV SHOW CALLED 'BEST FRIEND'.
ASSISTANT SATOU YURIKO

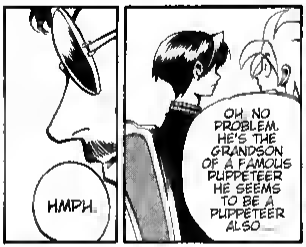
CLASSMATE
MORI SEIICHI
CLASSMATE
KAGAWA YUKI
ガ
OPEN
MAN, WHAT HORRIBLE RAIN!
WHOA! HE'S HOT!
SU. SUGIYAMA-KUN!
SORRY, SORRY! I KNOW I'M LATE!
DON'T TELL ME EVERY-ONE IS ALREADY HERE!
CLASSMATE
SUGIYAMA HISASHI
WAIT THERE, SUGIYAMA -KUN!
タッ
.....
EVERYBODY WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE STUCK IN HERE FROM THE STORM!

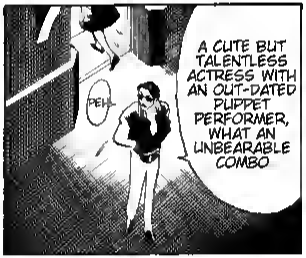
EH? SCARY! BUT IT'S GOOD YOU'RE SAFE!
THE BRAKES ON MY CAR WENT.
NEARLY FELL OFF THE SIDE OF A CLIFF GETTING HERE.
MAI...
GRRR
.....
POUT

QUIVER
ぷるぷる
THE SPONSOR WAS, WAS, OH, JOY!!
あはは HA HA HA
YEAAAAH! MAI-CHAN'S LAST COMMERCIAL WAS THE ULTIMATE!!
TAP TAP
AND
THE BEST!!
TV DIRECTOR TAKAMURA KATSUHIKO
HEY, HEY, WE'RE DEFINITELY GOOD TOGETHER! OUR NEXT DRAMA WILL BE A SURE THING TOO, HUH!?
Y, YEAH
GRAB
WE HAVE THE NUMBER ONE COMMERCIAL QUEEN, KAWAI MAI-CHAN AS A GUEST!
THIS TIME ON 'BEST FRIEND', THE FEELINGS FLOW! THE RATINGS WILL SURELY LOCK AT LEAST 20%!!
.....
ESPECIALLY YOU THERE!
THEY'RE GOOD ENOUGH TO JOIN SHOW BUSINESS!
AND I'M SURPRISED! MAI-CHAN'S FRIENDS ARE ALL GOOD-LOOKING!

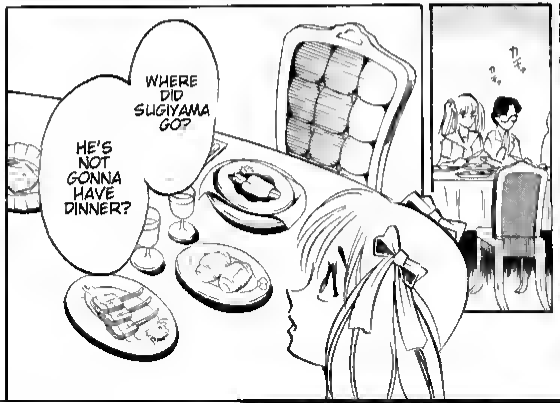
I WANT YOU TO AUDITION FOR ME LATER, OKAY?
YEAH! I THINK YOU GIVE OFF A GREAT LIGHT!
YOUR IMAGE CONTRASTS MAI-CHAN'S VERY NICELY!
HMM? ME?
MAYBE THAT GUY'S NOT SO BAD AFTER ALL.
HEH HEH
...
SOUNDS RIGHT!
MAYBE IF WE WERE HAVING A WEIRDO GRAND PRIX!!
HEY, THAT PUPPETEER HAS GOT GOOD TASTE TOO!
YOU OKAY? ANYTHING YOU NEED, LEAVE IT TO ME
SORRY! I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM FOR A SEC, WAIT FOR ME!
EXCUSE ME MISS?
がったーん
SMASH
YOU'RE GONNA PUT ME ON TV TOO!?


stare


HMPH.
OH NO PROBLEM. HE'S THE GRANDSON OF A FAMOUS PUPPETEER HE SEEMS TO BE A PUPPETEER ALSO—


PEH
A CUTE BUT TALENTLESS ACTRESS WITH AN OUT-DATED PUPPET PERFORMER, WHAT AN UNBEARABLE COMBO

THERE'S A PROBLEM DIDN'T I SAY NOT TO LET PEOPLE UNRELATED TO THE FILMING HERE?
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?

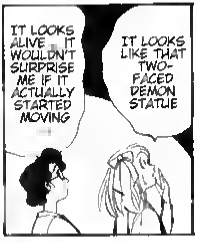

WHERE DID SUGIYAMA GO?
HE'S NOT GONNA HAVE DINNER?

ボソ
SO HE REALLY DOESN'T WANT TO SEE US AFTERALL...
ナデ
ゴロゴロ
YEAH...
RUMBLE...
THE BATHROOM AND THE DINING HALL ARE BOTH DARK LIKE SOMETHING COULD POP OUT AT YOU.
THIS PLACE REALLY IS CREEPY, HUH?
RUMBLE
ゴロゴロ
ニヤッ
KYAA!!

YOU'LL BE CURSED FOR DOING THAT!

IT SCARED ME...
WH-WHAT'S THAT!?

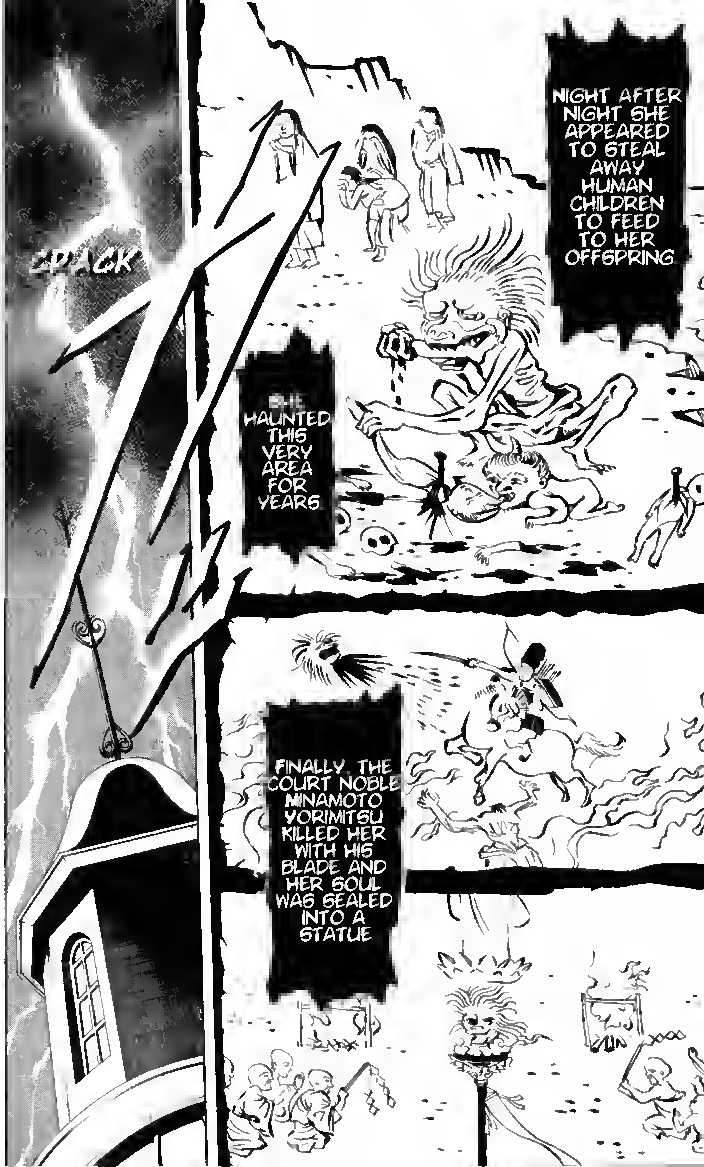
WHOO! IT REALLY SCARED ME! YOU UGLY MASK!
spin
spin
BUILD UP GUTS!


IT LOOKS ALIVE... IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IF IT ACTUALLY STARTED MOVING
IT LOOKS LIKE THAT TWO-FACED DEMON STATUE

WHOA!
WHAT THE? OH, IT'S THE HOSTESS! DON'T SCARE US LIKE THAT!

IT'S BAD TASTE BRINGS MAI-CHAN'S IMAGE DOWN! HA HA HA!
THIS IS WHAT PUPPET MANSION IS FAMOUS FOR, BUT...
PUNCH
PUNCH

THAT MASK IS CURSED
ALL OF THE PREVIOUS OWNERS OF THIS MANSION SEALED GRUDGES WITHIN THE PUPPETS AND THEY ALL WORSHIPPED THEM
IF YOU DISRESPECT THEM
THEY'LL CURSE YOU TOO!
THAT IS INDEED TRUE
THE TWO-FACED DEMON IS A DEVIL OF THIS PLACE?
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE
RIGHT?


NIGHT AFTER NIGHT SHE APPEARED TO STEAL AWAY HUMAN CHILDREN TO FEED TO HER OFFSPRING
SHE HAUNTED THIS VERY AREA FOR YEARS
CRACK
FINALLY, THE COURT NOBLE MINAMOTO YORIMITSU KILLED HER WITH HIS BLADE AND HER SOUL WAS SEALED INTO A STATUE

RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ
!!
WHIRR
キリ
WHIRR
キリ
CLICK
カチ
BONG
ボォォン
BONG
ボォォン
ミシ
ボォォン
ゴゴゴゴ
HMPH, THAT STORY MEANS NOTHING. THE HOUSE IS JUST CREEPY!
IT'S LATE, WE SHOULD START FILMING.

BOOM
I GIVE UP, MS. SANJOU! WE'RE NOT IN THE HEIAN PERIOD NOW. HOW COULD THERE BE DEMONS?
I'M REALLY NOT GOOD WITH THIS KIND OF STUFF
WAAAH!
じっ……
HERE, LIGHTNING IS KNOWN AS -ONNATARI- IT IS SAID THAT IT IS THEN THAT THE DEMON WILL APPEAR.
THIS MANSION HAS A LIGHTNING ROD THOSE OF YOU WHO BELIEVE IN THE SUPERSTITION CALLED SCIENCE CAN FEEL AT EASE.
HOWEVER
THE LIGHTNING ROD WON'T PROTECT YOU FROM THE DEMON!
IF SEVEN PEOPLE ASSEMBLE, SEVEN DEMONS WILL LURK ABOUT.
THE DEMONS DWELL AT THE BOTTOM OF ONE'S HEART.

あぁぁぁぁ
WHAT WAS THAT SCREAM !?
IT CAME FROM THE LOBBY!
WASN'T THAT SUGIYAMA-KUN'S VOICE...?
WHAT !?
うわあああ

click
キリ
whirr
キリ
CRACK
ALTHOUGH THEY'RE FROM ANCIENT TIMES, DEMONS CAN NEVER REALLY BE DESTROYED.
CREEEAK
HUH!?

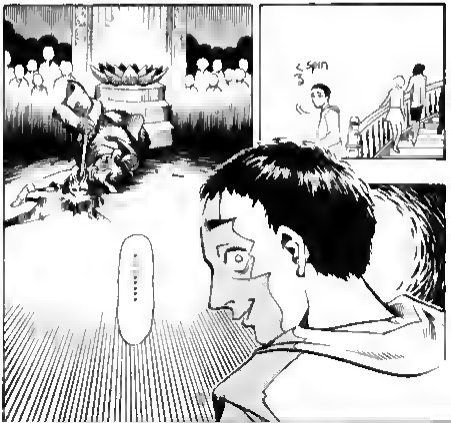
SUGIYAMA-KUN IS... AAH...!?
AH.. WHA..
ヘタ..
NO, DON'T TELL ME
THIS IS BAD!
HEY
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING
MA... MAI-CHAN...
NOOO! MS. SATOU! NOOO!
.....
MY TURN? HERE...?
gasp
AUNTIE?
AUNTIE, ISN'T IT YOUR TURN?

THE TWO-FACED DEMON WAS HUNG UP AGAINST THE WALL. IT FELL BECAUSE THE ROPE SNAPPED.
IT JUST NATURALLY FRAYED AND SNAPPED!
IT KILLED HIM INSTANTLY...
EVERYONE, PLEASE STAY CALM!
!!
IN INSPECTOR
IT WAS JUST AN ACCIDENT.
UNTIL THE LOCAL POLICE GET HERE EVERYONE RETURN TO THEIR ROOMS AND AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS.
POLICE HEAD-QUARTERS FIRST DIVISION SEARCH UNIT! TEMPORARY INSPECTOR TACHIBANA KAORUKO!

MS. SANJOU, PLEASE CONTACT THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.
OKAY
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY, AND SOMEONE'S BEEN KILLED!
AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS?? YOU JUST WAIT ONE MINUTE!
WE'RE RUNNING ON A TIGHT PRODUCTION SCHEDULE HERE!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SAKON?
HERE.
!
WHAT IS IT?

IT SEEMS THAT THE TWO-FACED DEMON HAS ARRIVED
COME ON, JERK! WHAT IS IT? TELL ME!
I'M NOT SURPRISED YOU SAY SO AS ALWAYS, YOU AND YOUR BAD NEWS
THE DEMON!?
UM...
STEP
TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING!!
THE STORM SEEMS TO HAVE CAUSED A LANDSLIDE, BLOCKING THE ONLY ROAD TO THE INN. THE POLICE WON'T BE ABLE TO COME UNTIL TOMORROW MORNING.
IT SEEMS THE POLICE WON'T BE COMING
WHAT!?

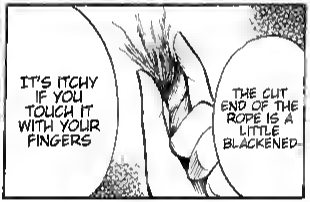
I CAN'T WORK IN A PLACE WITH A DEAD BODY! IT'S BAD LUCK!
THAT'S WHY I OBJECTED TO FILMING WITH THESE PEOPLE...
AH SORRY...
TA TAKAMURA -SAN?
LET'S REST EARLY TODAY PLEASE STAY IN YOUR ROOMS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
THE POLICE WILL BE HERE TOMORROW.


spin
.....

POUR
YOU'D GO AGAINST A SPECIALIST'S OPINION WITH YOUR AMATEUR BRAIN?
WHERE'D YOU GET THAT FROM!?
YEAH
MURDERED ...!?
YOU CONCLUDED THAT THE ROPE HANGING FROM THE STATUE WAS NATURALLY DETACHED
AND THAT THE STATUE FELL ONTO THE VICTIM BY CHANCE, RIGHT?
BUT WHY DO YOU SAY THAT IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT, SAKON?

I'LL EXPLAIN THE TRICK RIGHT NOW.

ITCHY?


IT'S ITCHY IF YOU TOUCH IT WITH YOUR FINGERS
THE CUT END OF THE ROPE IS A LITTLE BLACKENED.

YOU KNOW, YOU'RE REALLY STARTING TO PISS ME OFF!

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?
KAORUKO, IS YOUR BRACELET MADE OF SILVER?

SO WHOEVER IT WAS USED THE CHEMICAL TO CUT THE ROPE? NO WAY.
THERE'S SOME KIND OF CHEMICAL ON IT

WAI... WAIT A SEC ..
AH!
scrape

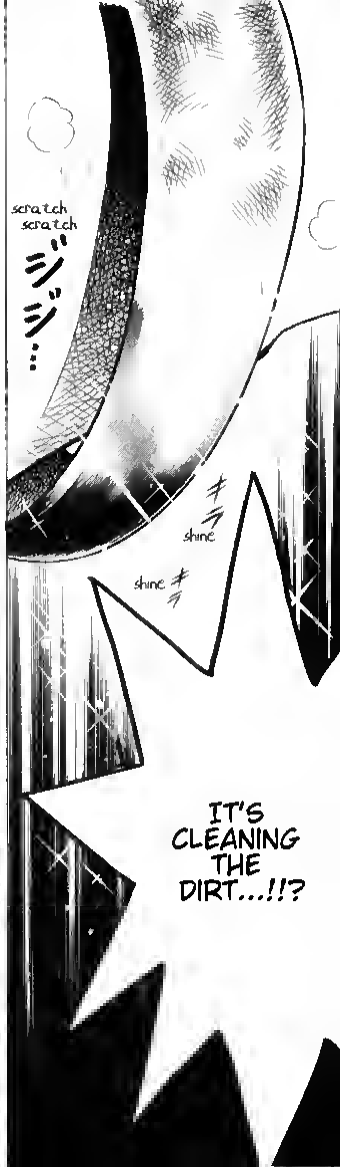
IT LOOKS DIRTY IS IT FAKE?
EXCUSE ME, THIS IS AN ANTIQUE FROM FRANCE!!

magic?
IT'S GOTTEN PRETTIER, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
WHOA
shine
shine

IT'S ACID.
IT'S A CHEMICAL THAT CAN DISSOLVE A METAL STAIN

OH YEAH, YOU LEARN THAT IN JUNIOR HIGH. THEN THE ROPE ..

THAT WAY, THE ROPE WOULDN'T LOOK LIKE IT WAS CUT INTENTIONALLY. BY THE TIME ANYONE FOUND IT, THE ACID WOULD HAVE BURNED THROUGH THE ROPE.
THE CRIMINAL WANTED IT TO LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT SO HE PREPARED A DILUTE ACID BEFOREHAND.


scratch scratch
ジジ…
shine
shine
IT'S CLEANING THE DIRT...!!?

THE CULPRIT PROBABLY TESTED MANY TIMES TO RECORD THE AMOUNT OF TIME REQUIRED TO BURN THROUGH THE ROPE
THEN ASKED THE VICTIM TO MEET BENEATH THE TWO-FACED OGRE STATUE BEFOREHAND
TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT . . .

WAIT. SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT..
THE SWORD THE DEMON IS HOLDING WENT RIGHT INTO THE VICTIM
HOW DID HE GET THE TIMING DOWN FOR THAT!?
THAT WAS BY CHANCE.
THE SWORD DIDN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE. THE WEIGHT OF THE STATUE WOULD HAVE CRUSHED HIM TO DEATH.
WE CAN SUPPOSE THAT EITHER WOULD HAVE BEEN FINE FOR THE CRIMINAL.
IN EITHER CASE, IT JUST LOOKS LIKE AN ACCIDENT. IF IT'S SUCCESSFUL, IT'S ACCIDENTAL DEATH. IF IT FAILS, IT'S JUST A SIMPLE ACCIDENT. THIS IS CALLED AN "OPPORTUNITY CRIME"
FOR THAT PURPOSE, THE CRIMINAL SHOULD HAVE OTHER TRAPS SET UP AS WELL.
SO SAKON, YOU THINK THE CRIMINAL IS IN THE MANSION?
YEAH, HIS CAR TOO..
THE BRAKES ON MY CAR WENT.
NEARLY FELL OFF THE SIDE OF A CLIFF GETTING HERE

YEAH. WE'RE GONNA SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE MURDERER.
WITHOUT A DOUBT THIS WAS DONE BY SOMEONE WITH A DEMON HIDDEN DEEP IN THEIR HEART.
THIS IS MURDER!!

SNIP
SNIP
HEH HEH. DIVINE PUNISHMENT.
IT'S OKAY. IT'LL BE OKAY, MAI-CHAN.
shake shake
I'M S-SCARED...

IS IT THE CURSE? AFTER 1000 YEARS, FINALLY THE RESISTANCE AGAINST THE LEGENDARY TWO-FACED DEMON ISN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP THE DEMON FROM AWAKENING.
THE WAY IT LOOKS NOW THIS GRUESOME INCIDENT SEEMS LIKE A BAD DREAM, BUT THE SERIAL MURDERER IS JUST GETTING STARTED.

Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 1 Chapter 3

A Lost Heaven Project
#lost-heaven @ irc.mircx.com

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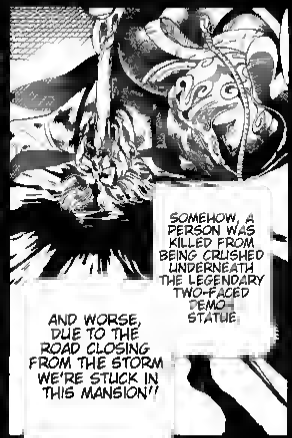
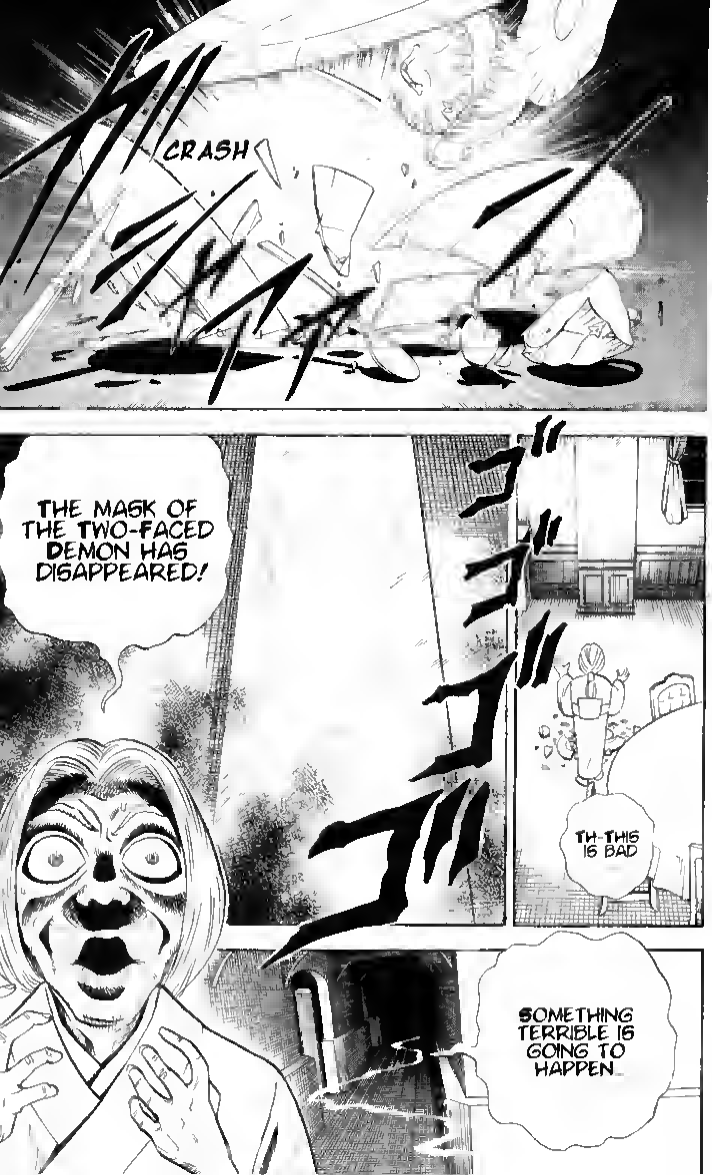
★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

京州仕面鬼傀儡地獄 第二夜 疑惑の影



遣
人
ZUSHUU TWO-FACED DEMON PUPPET HELL
CHAPTER TWO SUSPICIOUS SHADOW
豆州弐面鬼傀儡地獄
第二段 疑惑の影
心
形


CRASH
THE MASK OF THE TWO-FACED DEMON HAS DISAPPEARED!
ゴゴゴゴ
TH-THIS IS BAD
SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS GOING TO HAPPEN...

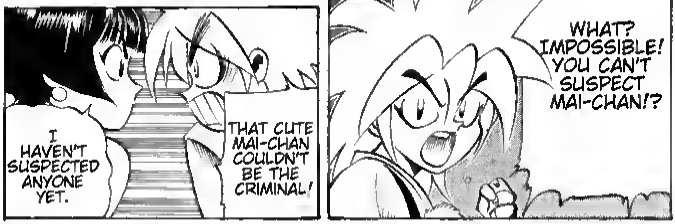
MAI'S CLASSMATE SUGIYAMA HISASHI
WHEN THE VICTIM WAS KILLED...
EVERYONE WAS IN THE DINING ROOM
ASSISTANT SATOU YURIKO
TALENT KAWAI MAI
DIRECTOR TAKAMURA KATSUHIKO
HOSTESS SANJOU SHIZUKA
SERVANT SHIKIBA CHIUTA
CLASSMATES MORI SEIICHI
KAGAWA YUKI
IF THE CRIMINAL IS ONE OF THESE PEOPLE...
THE DIRECTOR TAKAMURA IS THE MOST SUSPICIOUS!!

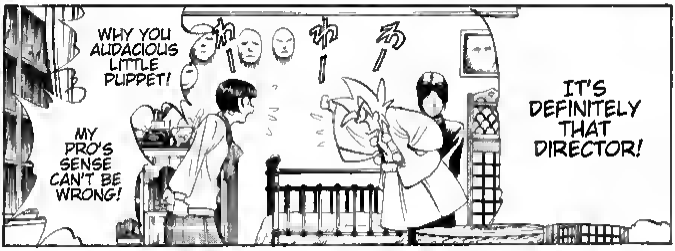
THAT'S NOT IT.
HE DIDN'T NEED TO LEAVE THE ROOM!
THE SUSPECT PUT DILUTED CID ON THE ROPES THAT HELD UP THE STATUE TO MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.
TAKAMURA WAS THE ONLY ONE NOT IN THE DINING ROOM WHEN THE MURDER OCCURED MAYBE HE JUST PRETENDED TO GO TO THE WASHROOM AND CARRIED OUT THE MURDER INSTEAD!!
STRANGE... EVERYONE SAYS THAT THE SUGIYAMAS ARE SUPPOSED TO BE MIDDLE-CLASS!!
LOOK AT THE STUFF THE VICTIM LEFT BEHIND, THEY'RE ALL BRAND PRODUCTS!!
BUT HOW COME THIS GUY HAD SO MANY PHOTOGRAPHS WITH HIM?
ALSO, HE DROVE AROUND IN A LUXURY VEHICLE. THAT'S SO WEIRD. I WONDER WHAT'S UP THERE
THE HOSTESS SAID THAT THESE FOUR WERE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AND HAD ALWAYS BEEN TOGETHER SINCE NURSERY SCHOOL
AH... THEY SEEM TO BE PHOTOS FOR THE FILMING OF 'BEST FRIEND'.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
IT'S JUST STUFF THAT YOU CAN NEVER AFFORD TO BUY!

THIS IS THE VICTIM, SUGIYAMA. HE WAS A HANDSOME BOY.
I wonder if I can take this ♡
OH! MAI-CHAN! SHE'S BEEN CUTE SINCE SHE WAS LITTLE.
I will keep this
HEY, LOOK, LOOK. ISN'T THIS THE HOSTESS?
EVEN BACK THEN KAGAWA AND MORI HAD SHIFTY-LOOKING FACES.
SEE? SHE REALLY IS A GHOST! SHE PROBABLY HAD THAT FACE 50 YEARS AGO!
AHAHA! SHE HASN'T CHANGED!
... I WONDER IF HE HAD LOVE PROBLEMS WITH SOMEONE IN HIS CLASS.
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
NO! LET'S BE SERIOUS! SERIOUS!
HM!
I'M CONCERNED ABOUT THE VICTIM'S GOOD ECONOMIC STATUS ON TOP OF THAT, WITH THAT FACE HE SHOULD BE POPULAR WITH GIRLS. THAT'S AN IMPORTANT LINK
RULE NUMBER ONE OF BASIC POLICE INVESTIGATION! WE HAVE TO KNOW ABOUT THE VICTIM!

step
step
KNOCK
KNOCK
WHO IS IT?

YUKI-CHAN! DID I SCARE YOU?
!!
OH IT'S YOU, TAKAMURA-SAN
PHEW
YUKI-CHAN!
I'M VERY LONELY TONIGHT!
SO WHY DON'T YOU GET MAI TO COMFORT YOU?
WHY ARE YOU HERE SO LATE AT NIGHT?
CLICK
HMPH
YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL, I'LL MAKE YOU A STAR...
YOU SAY SUCH MEAN THINGS TO ME!


I HAVEN'T SUSPECTED ANYONE YET.
THAT CUTE MAI-CHAN COULDN'T BE THE CRIMINAL!
WHAT? IMPOSSIBLE! YOU CAN'T SUSPECT MAI-CHAN!?


WHY YOU AUDACIOUS LITTLE PUPPET!
MY PRO'S SENSE CAN'T BE WRONG!
IT'S DEFINITELY THAT DIRECTOR!

.....
SAKON ?
WHAT CREDIT DO YOU HAVE? YOU LOST TO SAKON EARLIER!
HEY! SAKON, SPEAK UP! DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, GUY!

WHACK
UH!
STOP! JERK!
YUKI-CHAN, WHO'S THIS GLOOMY GUY? HE'S CREEPY.
YU-YUKI
...
HE CAN'T BE YOUR BOYFRIEND?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING. HE'S JUST A CLASSMATE.
!!
WHAT ON EARTH WAS THAT?
WHAT?
SU SUGIYAMA WAS
pant.
SU SUGIYAMA TOOK DIVINE PUNISHMENT FROM THE TWO-FACED DEMON. N NEXT IS...
NEXT IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE CURSED AND KILLED!

!!
OUT OF MY WAY!!
WHAT'S GOING ON IN HERE...?
NO, HA HA, NOTHING! WE WERE JUST REHEARSING!
SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE
OH! I WAS JUST BORROWING IT...
IT'S OKAY, I DIDN'T BREAK IT
HA HA
HA HA
WHAT IS THE TWO-FACED DEMON MASK DOING HERE...?
OH?
DID YOU PUT IT ON...?
HUH?

OHH YOU HAVE BEEN POSSESSED BY THE TWO-FACED DEMON
YOUR INDECENT HEART HAS CALLED HIM HERE!
HOLD ON NOW
IN-INDECENT HEART..?
THOSE WHO WEAR THE MASK WILL HAVE THEIR SOULS TAKEN
DEATH FALLS UPON THOSE WHO TAKE OFF THE MASK!!
YOU HAVE ALREADY
BAM!
STOP THIS NONSENSE! YOU LYING OLD BAG!
!!

THE DEMON AND THE CURSE ARE JUST STUPID SUPERSTITIONS, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GIVING ME CREEPS!
YOU SAID MY HEART IS INDECENT? A WORTHLESS OLD BAG LIKE YOU HAS NO RIGHT TO SAY THAT!!
BUT SUPER-STITION CAN STILL CONTROL PEOPLE'S HEARTS.
YES IT'S SUPER-STITIOUS
ON TOP OF THAT, YOU SAID I'LL DIE!? THAT'S BAD LUCK!
SUGIYAMA -KUN...
OUTTA THE WAY, WEIRDO!
FOR SURE HE'S THE CRIMINAL!!
NOW I SEE WHY YOU HATE THE DIRECTOR.

I'VE SAID NO TO THIS SHOW SINCE THE BEGINNING, BUT THEY SAID IT'S FOR ME...
IT WAS WRONG TO COME HERE!
BAM
EVEN IF THIS IS WORK, THERE ARE LIMITS!
ARGH! WHY DOES THIS KIND OF THING HAPPEN TO ME?
HM?
!!
I'LL BE KILLED? WHY DID HE PUT ME AND SUGIYAMA TOGETHER?
NEXT IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE CURSED AND KILLED!
gulp
SHIT! THAT DAMNED KID!
TODAY MAY ACTUALLY BE THE LUCKIEST DAY OF MY LIFE!!
AH HA HA! NO WAY!
HEH HEH HEH..
click
HEH HEH HEH
IF IT WAS SUGIYAMA ...
WAIT A SECOND, IF THAT PHONE CALL WAS

HOW CAN THAT DIRECTOR EVEN THINK ABOUT MESSING AROUND WITH YUKI AT A TIME LIKE THIS?
THAT'S WHY I SAID TAKAMURA IS THE CRIMINAL!
tick
tock
KEEP QUIET, WE'RE NEAR THE END
YOU'RE NOT STATIONED HERE, YOU CAN'T INVESTIGATE IN THIS REGION!
DO YOU SUSPECT MAI -CHAN AGAIN!?
HM... THE CRIMINAL'S IDENTITY IS RISING TO THE SURFACE
ぱぅーん
RULE NUMBER TWO OF POLICE INVESTIGATION! CHECK THE CRIME SCENE THROUGHLY!
WHO CARES. THE DIRECTOR IS THE CRIMINAL!!
.....

DON'T JUST STAND THERE, CAN YOU HELP ME? I'M BUSY YOU KNOW!
HEY SAKON!
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE AT THE CRIME SCENE...
PERHAPS SUGIYAMA GOT INTO A COMPLICATED LOVE-HATE RELATIONSHIP AND WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF MONEY...
THE CRIMINAL IS A WOMAN.
THE GUY WHO CALLED ME A WEIRDO IS THE CRIMINAL!!
IT'S A GUY!!
EH?
UKON, WHY DID THE CRIMINAL USE THE TWO-FACED DEMON TO KILL?
THAT?
SOMETHING WAS DROPPED OVER THERE!
ITEM?
AND WHAT ABOUT THAT ITEM HE LEFT BEHIND...?

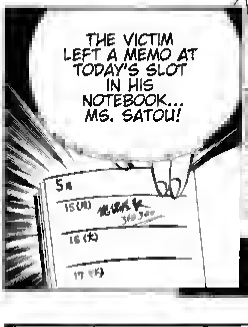
IS SHE A MONKEY...?
ギロ
glare
LEAVE IT TO THE PROS!

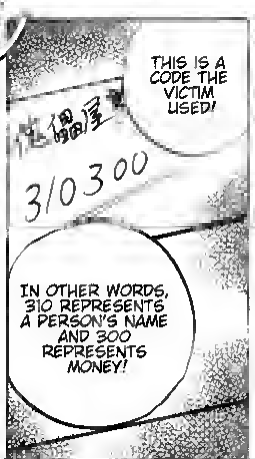
だだだ
YOINK

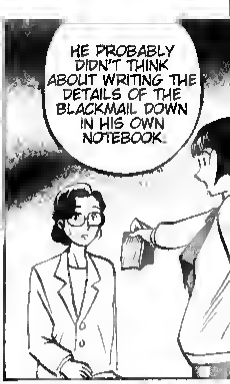
MWA
ぴぴるるぅ〜ん
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY?
she did it again

OH, IT'S...
IT'S THE VICTIM'S NOTEBOOK
AFTER ALL, THE PROS DO IT DIFFERENTLY, LIKON!
ホーッホホホ
I KNOW WHO THE CRIMINAL IS!

RUMBLE
ゴロゴロ
MURDER ...!?





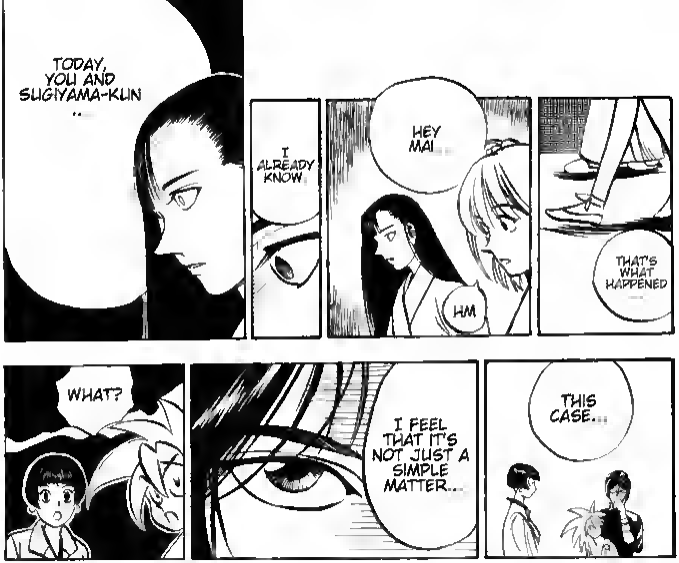


* 3 IN JAPANESE IS LIKE 'SA', AND 10 IS LIKE, 'TOU' (310=SATOU)

W-WELL
WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE DINNER?
T.. THAT'S NOT TRUE
IM SORRY TO INTERRUPT
ABOUT THOSE NUMBERS
THEY ARE THE MANSION'S PHONE NUMBER
EH?
SO YOU JUST READ THIS AS IT IS?
WELL, MAI-CHAN AND I DID SEPARATE FOR A WHILE...
...BUT I WAS WITH DIRECTOR TAKAMURA. IF YOU ASK HIM HE'LL TELL YOU.
UM.. NO BASIC INVESTIGATION RULE NUMBER THREE IS TO CHECK THE SITUATION
HEY LOOK! STUPID WRONG DETECTIVE!
DETECT-IVE!!
ゴゴゴゴ

YEAH, LET'S PROVE YOUR INNOCENCE!
awww
BUT I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY HE SEEMS TO HAVE DRUNK A LOT EARLIER ON
HE MIGHT ALREADY BE ASLEEP.
IT'S OKAY HE GOT DRUNK AND GAVE ME A WEIRD PHONE CALL EARLIER!!
RING
RING
RING
RING

DO SOMETHING ALREADY, SAKON!
OKAY
ガチャ
SLAM
LET'S BORROW THE MASTER KEY AND WAKE UP TAKAMURA-SAN SO WE CAN CLEAR UP THIS TROUBLE!!
HE'S NOT GETTING UP. HE'S PROBABLY HAMMERED!!
WHY WOULD SUGIYAMA-KUN BLACKMAIL YOU OUT OF THE BLUE?
I'M SO PISSED. SUSPECTING YOU!!
HOSTESS, THE MASTER KEY...
YES
KAORUKO, I'VE BEEN THINKING...
...I WAS SO SURE IT WAS A MONEY PROBLEM RELATED TO LOVE AFFAIR...
THAT'S STRANGE...
HUH? WHAT HAPPENED?
LISTEN TO THIS YUKI-CHAN. IT'S HORRIBLE


TODAY, YOU AND SUGIYAMA-KUN ..
I ALREADY KNOW.
HEY MAI...
HM
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED
WHAT?
I FEEL THAT IT'S NOT JUST A SIMPLE MATTER...
THIS CASE...

SOMETHING THAT'S MADLY FILLED WITH SADNESS...
I FEEL THAT THIS CASE HAS A HIDDEN UNPLEASANT PAST.

HUH?
!!
DRIP
DRIP
WHAT!?
WH...

Puppet Storybook

Ayatsuri Sakon

Puppet Master Tachibana Sakon

Volume 1 Chapter 4

A Lost Heaven Project
#lost-heaven @ irc.mircx.com

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★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

豆州仕面鬼傀儡地獄 第三段 鬼は夜歩く

ZUSHUU TWO-FACED DEMON PUPPET HELL PART THREE DEMONS NIGHT WALK

THE GUY WHO CONTROLS ME IS SAKON, A PUPPETEER.
MY NAME IS UKON!!
THERE IS A STRANGE MURDER CASE IN PUPPET MANSION, WHERE WE'RE STAYING IN IZU.
ONE OF THE PEOPLE WHO CAME HERE FOR THE TAPING OF POPULAR TV SHOW DIED WHEN HE WAS STABBED BY THE TWO-FACED DEMON STATUE. HOWEVER...
THE TRUTH IS, WE KNOW THAT SOMEONE PLANNED THIS CRIME TO LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT!!
YO! SAKON, YOU'VE FOUND SOMETHING RIGHT? CAN'T YOU TELL ME IN SECRET?
WHAT? NO...?
MY BUDDY SAKON ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND SOMETHING. WELL THEN, LET'S START THIS CHAPTER!
I THINK I'LL KICK HER ASIDE AND SOLVE THE CASE MYSELF
OVER THERE IS AUNTIE KAORUKO, WHO STEPPED UP SHAMELESSLY TO TRY TO SOLVE THE CASE AND FAILED. I DON'T WANNA WATCH HER ANYMORE!
WHAT? THIS HERE IT IS?
BUT THE BASICS OF INVESTIGATION

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豆州仕面鬼傀儡地獄
第三段 鬼は夜歩く
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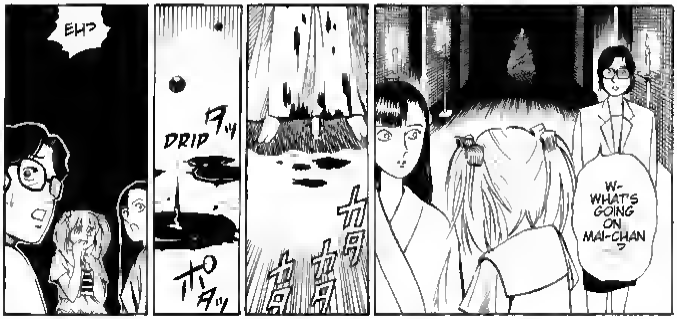

EH?
DRIP
ポタッ
カタ
カタ
カタ
W-WHAT'S GOING ON MAI-CHAN?

カタ
カタ
カタ
カタ
カタ
カタ
WHAT ...!?
DRIP
ポタ
ポタ
DRIP
WH...

EEEE !!
roll
roll
THUD
A... SEVERED HEAD..!!?
A HEAD?
SE SEVERED HEAD!?
EHH
TH THIS
WAIT A SECOND
THIS IS A PUPPET'S HEAD!!
WHAT!?

Y...YEAH. WHY ARE THEY THERE!?
OH!
W-WHAT IS IT MS SATOU?
THAT'S HORRIBLE, WHO'D DO SUCH A THING
AREN'T THOSE TAKAMURA -SAN'S
M-MS. SATOU, WHAT IF ...
AH!
TAKAMURA -SAN...!!
BAM BAM
TA... TAKAMURA -SA...
KREEE
MS. SATOU! THE M. STER KEY!
TAKAMURA -SAN, WHAT H. PENED? T. KAMURA -SAN!
click
silence
CLICK

WA HA HA HA!
ASSISTANT INSPECTOR TACHIBANA! SLOPPY INFERENCE AS USUAL!
THIS NUMBER ...
...IS CODE FOR EXTORTION!
KA-TA
TA
YOU SUCK!
DIDN'T I SAY THE DIRECTOR WAS THE CRIMINAL? IT'S BETTER IF YOU LEAVE THE CASE TO US!!
BUT WE'RE STILL NOT SURE WHO IT IS!
BECAUSE BECAUSE BECAUSE...
YOU MISUNDERSTOOD A TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR A CODE...
AND INCORRECTLY ACCUSED MAI'S ASSISTANT OF MURDERING HER BLACKMAILER!
EH?
SPEAKING OF WHICH, YOU SAID SOMETHING EARLIER...
DAMN IT. SHE DOESN'T GET DISCOURAGED AT ALL...
COULDN'T YOU TELL YOUR AUNT A SECRET?
PUSH
HEEEY, SAKON-CHAN, WHAT DID YOU FIND OUT?
I THINK I HAVE A VAGUE OUTLINE OF THIS CASE.

HMM?
KAORUKO, WOULD YOU PLEASE CHECK OUT SOMETHING FOR ME?
BUT SOME PARTS ARE STILL...
THIS
THE PHOTO FOUND ON THE VICTIM?
YOU JUST TOOK IT??
BUT THIS SEEMS...!?
MURDERED!!
!!
DIRECTOR TAKAMURA HAS BEEN ...
TAKAMURA-SAN HAS...
shake shake
KREE
WHAT'S UP?
!!

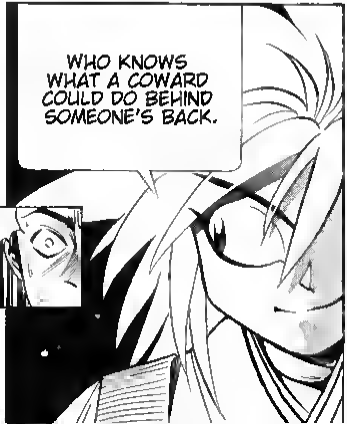
STABBED ALL OVER...
AND HE'S STILL WARM...
LIH!
!!

THE KEY IS ON THE NIGHT-STAND
KYAAAA!!
PLEASE COME! I TOLD YOU, IT'S MURDER!!
I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU IT WASN'T AN ACCI-DENT!!
T...THE POLICE REALLY CAN'T COME...!!
BUNCH OF USELESS JERKS!
THE POLICE CAN'T MOVE UNTIL THE ROAD GETS CLEARED TOMORROW MORNING.
M-MS SATOU
M-MAI -CHAN

WHAT DO YOU MEAN 'AGAIN', SAKON?
EH?
THE TWO-FACED DEMON AGAIN?
.....
WHAA!
THE SEAL OF THE TWO-FACED DEMON HAS BEEN BROKEN
N...NO...
.....
DON'T JUST JUMP OUT LIKE THAT!
IT SEEMS LIKE THE CRIMINAL DIDN'T WANT BLOOD ON THEMSELVES AND USED THE CURTAIN AS AN APRON!!
AH!
KAORUKO, WHAT'S THIS?
NO! DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING IN THIS ROOM!

CRIMINAL...!?
HMPH SO WHO'S THE CRIMINAL?
UKON, STILL THINK THE DIRECTOR'S THE CRIMINAL?
GOOD THINKING

IT'S MOST LIKELY SOMEONE IN HERE..

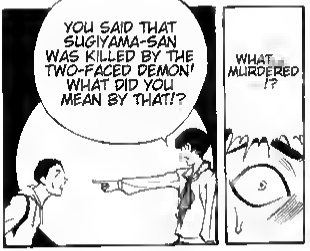

WHO KNOWS WHAT A COWARD COULD DO BEHIND SOMEONE'S BACK.

HEY, DIDN'T SOMEONE SAY THEY WERE GONNA KILL THE DIRECTOR EARLIER...?

ARE YOU SAYING I DID IT!?

STOP IT YOU TWO!
W...WHAT'S YOUR PURPOSE OF USING VENTRILOQUISM TO MAKE A JOKE OF US!
STOP SPOUTING TRASH!!
WH...WHAT DID YOU SAY...!!!?
LET ME GO, DAMN IT! LET GO!
WHEW I ALMOST GOT KILLED
UKON! NO, SAKON, YOU STOP IT TOO!
tock
tick
tock
tick

UM... HAVE YOU FOUND ANYTHING OUT, DETECTIVE?
THIS MANSION HAS A MAIN BUILDING AND AN ANNEX.
ALTHOUGH THE MANSION STAFF AND TV CREW WERE HERE TOO, I ALREADY SENT THEM TO THE ANNEX DURING THE INVESTIGATION THEY SHOULD BE CLEAN.
THERE'S A POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE FROM THE OUTSIDE CAME IN
BUT...
NO, I DIDN'T SEE ANY SIGNS OF INTRUSION.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE ARE THE ONLY ONES IN THIS BUILDING.
!?
WH-WHAT...? YOU STILL SUSPECT ME...!?
MORI, WHERE WERE YOU BEFORE NOW!?
spin
SEE? DIDN'T I SAY THE SAME THING? IT REALLY IS ONE OF US..
SHH

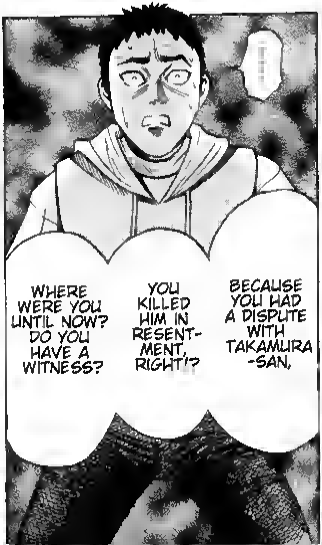

YOU SAID THAT SUGIYAMA-SAN WAS KILLED BY THE TWO-FACED DEMON! WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT!?
WHAT... MURDERED!?

MORI, DID YOU KNOW THAT SUGIYAMA-SAN DIDN'T DIE BY ACCIDENT, BUT WAS MURDERED?

THAT GUY... WITH YUKI... YUKI...
THAT'S JUST SOMETHING I MADE UP BECAUSE I HATED HIM!

NEXT IT'S YOUR TURN TO BE CURSED AND KILLED!
SU... SUGIYAMA TOOK DIVINE PUNISHMENT FROM THE TWO-FACED DEMON
TH-THAT'S

AH
UH


WHERE WERE YOU UNTIL NOW? DO YOU HAVE A WITNESS?
YOU KILLED HIM IN RESENT-MENT, RIGHT!?
BECAUSE YOU HAD A DISPUTE WITH TAKAMURA -SAN,

WAIT, KAORUKO.

shake
shake

THIS TIME YOU CAN'T SAY THAT MORI ISN'T THE CRIMINAL.
SAKON, YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN GET IN MY WAY?
ひくっ…
huh?
H-HEY SAKON …
WH-WHAT !!??
!?
YEAH, I CAN.
SAKON …
MORI CAN'T BE THE CRIMINAL.

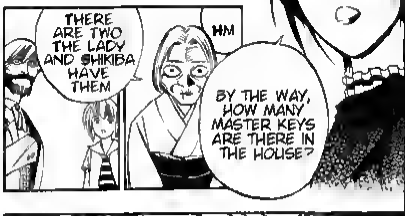
YEAH, SO...?

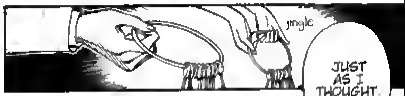
THE CRIMINAL USED A CURTAIN IN ORDER TO PREVENT BLOOD FROM SPLASHING ON HIM, RIGHT?

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN? WHAT EVIDENCE DO YOU HAVE...?

THIS PROVES THE CRIMINAL WAS VERY CALM AND CAREFUL WHEN THEY PERFORMED THE CRIME.

205
I'M SURE THE KEY TO THAT ROOM WAS ON THE NIGHTSTAND!
THEN, HOW DID THE CRIMINAL LEAVE THE LOCKED ROOM...!?


THERE ARE TWO THE LADY AND SHIKIBA HAVE THEM
HM
BY THE WAY, HOW MANY MASTER KEYS ARE THERE IN THE HOUSE?


jingle
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

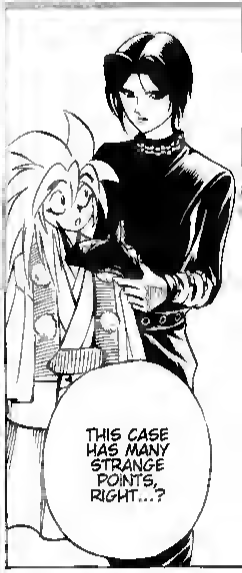
AH!
KAORUKO, WHERE'S THE KEY TO THAT ROOM?
KEY ...!?

I-ISOLATED ROOM...!?
IT'S AN ISOLATED ROOM!
YOU STILL NEED TO THINK?
WH-WHAT THE...
THIS IS A PLANNED MURDER WHERE THE SUSPECT VERY CALMLY AND SLYLY MADE THE INVESTIGATION DIFFICULT WITH AN ISOLATED-ROOM MURDER AND THE USE OF A CURTAIN TO PREVENT SPLASHING BLOOD.
YEAH.
AH!
EVERYONE, TRY TO REMEMBER TO WHEN UKON AND MORI-SAN WERE ARGUING.
YOU USED UKON TO CHECK THAT..
CAN THIS KIND OF PERSON STAY CALM AND KILL SOMEONE HE HATES?
MORI-SAN IS USUALLY QUIET RIGHT? IT SEEMS THAT WHEN HE GETS EXCITED HE CAN'T THINK CLEARLY

KAORUKO, I THINK THAT THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE WE SHOULD FOCUS ON.
!

IF MORI ISN'T THE CRIMINAL, WHO IS ...!?
THEN ...

...USE THE TWO-FACED DEMON STATUE AS WEAPON? USUALLY THIS METHOD IS NOT LIKELY TO SUCCEED.
WHY WOULD THIS CAREFUL AND SLY CRIMINAL ...
THE TWO-FACED DEMON.
THERE ARE MUCH BETTER METHODS, SUCH AS CUTTING THE BRAKES ON A CAR.


THIS CASE HAS MANY STRANGE POINTS, RIGHT...?

STRANGE POINTS !?

!
YEAH, THAT IS WEIRD. WHAT COULD IT BE?
IF IT WAS JUST FOR COVERING THE FACE, MANY MASKS IN THAT ROOM COULD'VE SERVED THE PURPOSE
THERE'S THE DANGER OF BEING SEEN BY SOMEONE AS THEY TOOK THE MASK.
THEN AGAIN FOR THE SECOND CRIME IN THE CAFETERIA WITH THE MASK
WHY DID THEY HAVE TO USE THE TWO-FACED DEMON?
DID THE SUSPECT WANT US TO THINK THAT THE LEGEND OF THE TWO-FACED DEMON IS TRUE?
HE'S RIGHT!!
THAT'S THE KEY FOR SOLVING THIS CASE!!
1
Puppeteer Tachibana Sakon
Vol 1 (End)